

Kirk urges Danes to hold fire

Captain Kent Kirk, back home in Esbjerg, said that he hoped other Danish fishermen would not copy his breach of Britain's new fishing regulations.

Caution urged, page 2. Issue masked, page 6

Tax cut hopes

A March Budget is being mentioned as very likely this year but hopes of significant tax cuts are being discounted because of the continuing pressure of sterling and the resulting likelihood of higher inflation.

Oil field setback

The Government's privatization programme has suffered a setback with a refusal by British Gas to recommend any of the private sector bids for its stake in Which Farm, Britain's largest onshore oil field.

Onslow's gaffe

Mr Cranley Onslow, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, has ended a strained visit to Zimbabwe, not eased by referring to the country as Rhodesia.

Non-starter

Bookmakers, who say that illegal betting is cutting their turnover and putting many of them out of business, are not expected to win a reduction in the betting tax.

Hero Himmler

For Heinrich Himmler's young daughter, Gudrun, the SS chief held responsible for killing 10 million people was a shining, overworked, modest hero, extracts from her diary reveal.

THE TIMES

Tomorrow: Bernard Levin on troubles at Tribune; Clifford Longley traces the return of metaphysics to religious debate; Roger Scruton on ways of excluding children from politics and Russell Baker cavortings on the KGB men discussing the Pope.

Trade piracy

Taiwan plans harsher penalties for trade mark 'pirates', who cost western companies millions of pounds a year by producing cheap counterfeits of their products.

Cancer claim

Claims that many Servicemen who took part in the nuclear bomb tests in the 1950s contracted and in some cases died from cancer are being examined by cancer statisticians.

Arts chief clash

The Arts Council meets today to resolve the controversy over the appointment of the next secretary-general after the full council rejected the candidate recommended by the selection committee.

French 3D deal

Nimso, the 3D camera company which announced last week that it is ceasing production in Dundee, has signed a contract to make the camera in France.

Pit peace talks

National Coal Board leaders will seek today to reduce a strike threat when they meet Welsh miners to consider their demand for increased investment in the coalfields.

Botham bouncer

Australian newspapers over the weekend gave prominence to an assertion by Ian Botham that two umpiring decisions 'probably cost England the last Test match'.

Leader page 9

Letters: On unemployment, from Sir Richard O'Brien, and Mrs J. Spencer-Knott; animal experiments, from Professor K. Y. Caine; university cuts, from Professor E. A. Barnard.

Features pages 7, 8

Francis Pym on the EEC's increased importance to Britain; the Conservative pledge that Whitehall should break by Gerald Kaufman; Broadway, little business for showbusiness; the House of Indira Gandhi.

Obituary page 10

Miss Edith Coates; Mr Albert Barnes.

Table with 2 columns: Page number and Section name. Includes Home News, Overseas, Apps, Arts, Business, Chess, Church, Court, Crossword, Diary, Events, Law Report, Luck cartoon, Prizes, Property, Science, Show reports, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, Unemployment, Weather, and Wildlife.

Falklanders delighted by Thatcher's secret visit

By Alan Hamilton

To the surprise and dismay of her adversaries at home and abroad, Mrs Margaret Thatcher has travelled in secret half way across the world to a warm and spontaneous welcome from the people of the Falkland Islands.

Her visit, 150 years after the British drove out the Argentines in 1833 and seven months after they repeated the exercise, has been condemned as provocative and arrogant in Buenos Aires.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, Labour frontbench spokesman on foreign affairs, accused the Prime Minister yesterday of trying to divert attention from the forthcoming Franks report.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian and the most dogged critic of the Government's conduct of the Falklands campaign, said yesterday that the visit was profoundly ill advised, carrying great personal risk for Mrs Thatcher.

Accompanied by her husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, First Sea Lord, and a small posse of officials, Mrs Thatcher left Brize Norton in an RAF VC10 at 9 pm on Friday for a 10-hour flight to Ascension Island.

Local people line route into town

The first of the Falklanders knew of the approach of their heroine was 90 minutes before her aircraft touched down at Port Stanley.

Missile case Irishmen to plead insanity

Two Irishmen accused of trying to buy missiles that would shoot down British helicopters in Northern Ireland have come up with an unusual defence.

Arguments over the defence tactic are due to take place today before a federal judge in Brooklyn.

Mr David Lewis, the Meehan's lawyer, said the arguments over the insanity pleas were scheduled separately because the prosecution was given notice of it late.

The insanity defence, if permitted, would be used to counter extensive government evidence, including video tapes of three meetings in May and June of last year in Manhattan and New Orleans.

RAF officers go on trial over shot down plane

Two RAF officers appear before a court martial in West Germany today, charged with negligently causing the loss of an aircraft after shooting down a Jaguar in May at a cost of about £7m.

Flight-Lieutenant Roy Lawrence and Flight-Lieutenant Alistair Inverarity were on a training mission when they fired a Sidewinder missile which hit the Jaguar pilot.

The by-election, for which no date had been fixed, is caused through the resignation of Mr Robert Mellish, aged 69, who had been the area's MP for 36 years and is a former Labour chief whip.



The Prime Minister and her husband at Government House with Sir Rex and Lady Hunt.



(below) Mrs Thatcher chatting with a child who had presented her with a pink rose.

Maxwell in talks on sale of 'Observer'

By Baron Phillips

Talks which could lead to the sale of The Observer newspaper are taking place, Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, the head of Lornho, confirmed last night.

A leading contender for the newspapers is Mr Maxwell who owns the British Printing Communications Corporation.

Behind Mr Rowland's decision to sell is probably his feeling of frustration with the British business environment.

Mr Rowland's decision to sell The Observer came as a surprise to journalists and directors.

It is understood that Mr Rowland is seeking offers of between £45m and £50m for the newspaper.

Mr Kenneth Clark, one of the independent directors appointed when Mr Rowland finally received Department of Trade approval for the acquisition of The Observer in July 1981, said the news came as a complete surprise to both him and his co-directors.

"My feeling is that this would be a disaster if The Observer becomes something which could be bought and sold twice a year."

Extortionist blasts aircraft at Brisbane

From Tony Dubouin Melbourne

Security at Australian airports has been sharply increased after an extortionist demanding \$A1m (about £625,000) fired a missile at an aircraft at Brisbane airport.

The extortionist is believed to have contacted the Brisbane office of the state-owned domestic airline Trans-Australian Airlines (TAA) on Wednesday.

After the demand the extortionist then damaged an old, privately owned Canberra bomber - part of a museum display - with a rocket.

The first indication that something was afoot was on Friday when Mr Kevin Newman, the federal Minister for Administrative Services, gave the press the sketchiest details of the affair and asked for a media blackout.

Speculation ran wild. Some of the more exotic theories involved the PLO, the Croatian Liberation Movement, a Jewish group, and a threat to a Boy Scout jamboree.

Alpine retreat

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday flew to Switzerland where they are expected to take a skiing holiday. They were not accompanied by their son Prince William.

Victims freed after 5-day kidnap terror

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The son of a wealthy London diamond merchant was freed by Scotland Yard detectives yesterday after being held captive for five days while a ransom of up to £2m was demanded from his family with threats to mutilate or kill him.

Mr Emmanuel Xuereb, aged 33, a wine merchant, was seized last Tuesday with his wife Maria, aged 25, from their home in Bromley, Kent.

Mr Xuereb's father was initially asked for £2m but on Saturday Mrs Xuereb was freed by the couple's captors with a note asking for £525,000.

Yesterday morning in a raid on a house in Kemble Road, Croydon, Surrey, detectives freed Mr Xuereb and arrested three men. At lunchtime yesterday a fourth man was arrested in north London and all four are expected to appear in court today.

Scotland Yard was called in by the Xuereb family soon after the couple disappeared and 120 officers with 80 vehicles were put on the case under the command of Commander William Huckleby.

At a press conference Mr Gilbert Kelland, the assistant commissioner in charge of CID, praised the courage of Mr and Mrs Xuereb.

He reserved special praise for Mrs Xuereb, who he describes as "a very brave young lady". The couple and Mr Anthony Xuereb, a Hatton Garden diamond merchant, praised the police for their work.

Mr Xuereb said that when he was told by his captors that his wife was to be released he did not know if it was a trick and it was worried for her.

The worst time of the kidnap was the 24 hours he had spent on his own after his wife's release. "I was worried, most worried than when she was with me," he said.

His wife said after she was freed she was terrified at what might happen to her husband. Earlier, she had been "worried all the time that we were never going to get out".

She said: "I am very happy to be free". Mr Xuereb said they had been blindfolded all the time and they felt in danger.

Mr Anthony Xuereb said he thought the police had been "really terrific". Mr Xuereb, aged 60, received the messages and approaches from the kidnapers which included threats to cut off his son's fingers at the rate of one a day and to murder him sending the head in a box.

Mr Kelland also thanked the press for their cooperation in keeping the police involvement and details of the case a secret.

While in Europe the Vice President will hold talks with Nato leaders and American arms reduction negotiators about the recent Soviet initiative proposing sizable cuts in the nuclear arsenals held by the two super-powers and a non-aggression treaty between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

White House officials said that based on the consultations Mr Bush would be in a position to decide whether the Soviet proposals were substantial enough to merit a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader.

There is an increasingly widely held view in Washington that a meeting would greatly enhance Mr Reagan's reputation, domestically and internationally, if it were to result in progress on reducing nuclear weapons.

The decision to dispatch Mr Bush on his 12-day journey, starting on January 30, reflects growing US concern that the Soviet Union has gained the initiative in the propaganda war being waged by the two super-powers over nuclear arms reduction, particularly in Western Europe where there is growing opposition to the planned deployment of 572 Pershing-2 and ground-launched cruise missiles.

His visit will take place one month before the general election in West Germany which is scheduled to be the first recipient of these new weapons.

Mr Bush will first visit West Germany and will then travel to the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, France and finally Britain. Five of the countries he will visit are proposed sites for the new medium-range missiles which Nato plans to deploy to counter the threat posed by the 300 or so SS20 missiles deployed by the Soviet Union.

In London Mr Bush will have talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the new Defence Secretary.

Mr Bush will first visit West Germany and will then travel to the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, France and finally Britain. Five of the countries he will visit are proposed sites for the new medium-range missiles which Nato plans to deploy to counter the threat posed by the 300 or so SS20 missiles deployed by the Soviet Union.

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Big selection victory for Tatchell

By George Clark

Mr Peter Tatchell, the young left-winger who earned Mr Michael Foot's disapproval for his views on extra-parliamentary political action, was chosen again yesterday as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Southwark, Bermondsey.

It was a notable victory for him after a year-long campaign to establish his position. At a meeting of the constituency party's general management committee he obtained 42 votes, against eight for Mr Eric Moonman, former MP for Basildon, and two for Mr James Little, a Kent county councillor.

The by-election, for which no date had been fixed, is caused through the resignation of Mr Robert Mellish, aged 69, who had been the area's MP for 36 years and is a former Labour chief whip.

A persistent critic of left-wing activists, whom he claimed took over the constituency about two years ago, Mr Mellish will continue his opposition to those now running the local party. He calls them the "left-wing mafia".

He will back as Independent Labour candidate Mr John O'Grady, aged 62, the former Southwark council leader, who was at last night's meeting. The Labour Party National Executive Committee refused to endorse Mr Tatchell as candidate after the first reselection conference because of his "extra-parliamentary" views, but it is expected now that he will be given endorsement. The party nationally would suffer if it continued to challenge the democratic decision of a local party.



Mr Tatchell: A notable victory.

would oppose Mr Tatchell as an Independent Labour candidate. Mr Tatchell said he was confident that his candidature would be endorsed.

There will now be a battle for the allegiance of the 19,000 voters who supported Mr Mellish at the general election, giving him a majority of more than 11,000.

In a farewell letter distributed to all electors when he resigned, Mr Mellish set out his reasons for resigning and promised that there would be an opportunity to vote for a "moderate" when the by-election came.

It is expected that many former Labour voters, tired of the local feud, will turn to one of the other parties. The Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance naturally hopes that it will win much support for Mr Simon Hughes, the Liberal candidate, a barrister aged 31 from Camberwell.

The Conservative candidate is Mr Robert Hughes, aged 31, a BBC producer.

One certainty is that the voters will not have any lack of choice. There are about seven-teen candidates in the field.



# Licensed bookmakers and Jockey Club combine to fight illegal betting

By Rupert Morris

Bookmakers, who have been complaining that illegal betting is reducing their turnover and putting an increasing number of them out of business, can expect a dusty answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to their request for a reduction in betting tax.

In normal circumstances their complaint would be seen as predictable special pleading from a business suffering like any other from recession. On this occasion, however, they have formed an unprecedented alliance with the Jockey Club and produced detailed evidence to support their case.

The problem is that this evidence is not corroborated by the Customs and Excise which largely on the basis of information supplied by the bookmakers, has taken action against a number of individuals or clubs.

"We are aware of the claims made by the industry", Customs and Excise says, "but the evidence is far from conclusive, and inquiries through local customs staff certainly do not suggest that there has been any substantial increase in illegal betting or that the duty evaded in this way is

significant in comparison with the revenue from licensed bookmakers".

Last month a deputation led by Lord Manton, chief steward of the Jockey Club, went to the Home Secretary, claiming that 15 to 20 per cent of betting was now illegal, and requesting that betting shops be allowed to introduce television and comfortable furniture to attract customers who had been led astray.

Bookmakers say they are losing business to public houses and clubs who will take tax-free bets over the bar, as well as allowing their customers to watch the races on television.

The racing and betting lobby points to the report in 1978 of the Royal Commission on Gambling, which identified a revival in illegal betting after 1966, and attributed it to the combined effects of duty and the levy, the means by which the horse-racing authorities raise money from the bookmakers, at 1 per cent of their annual turnover.

The royal commission also said that illegal betting would increase rapidly when the combined rates of duty and levy reached a certain critical point. It said that the existing rate was

"running it dangerously close", more

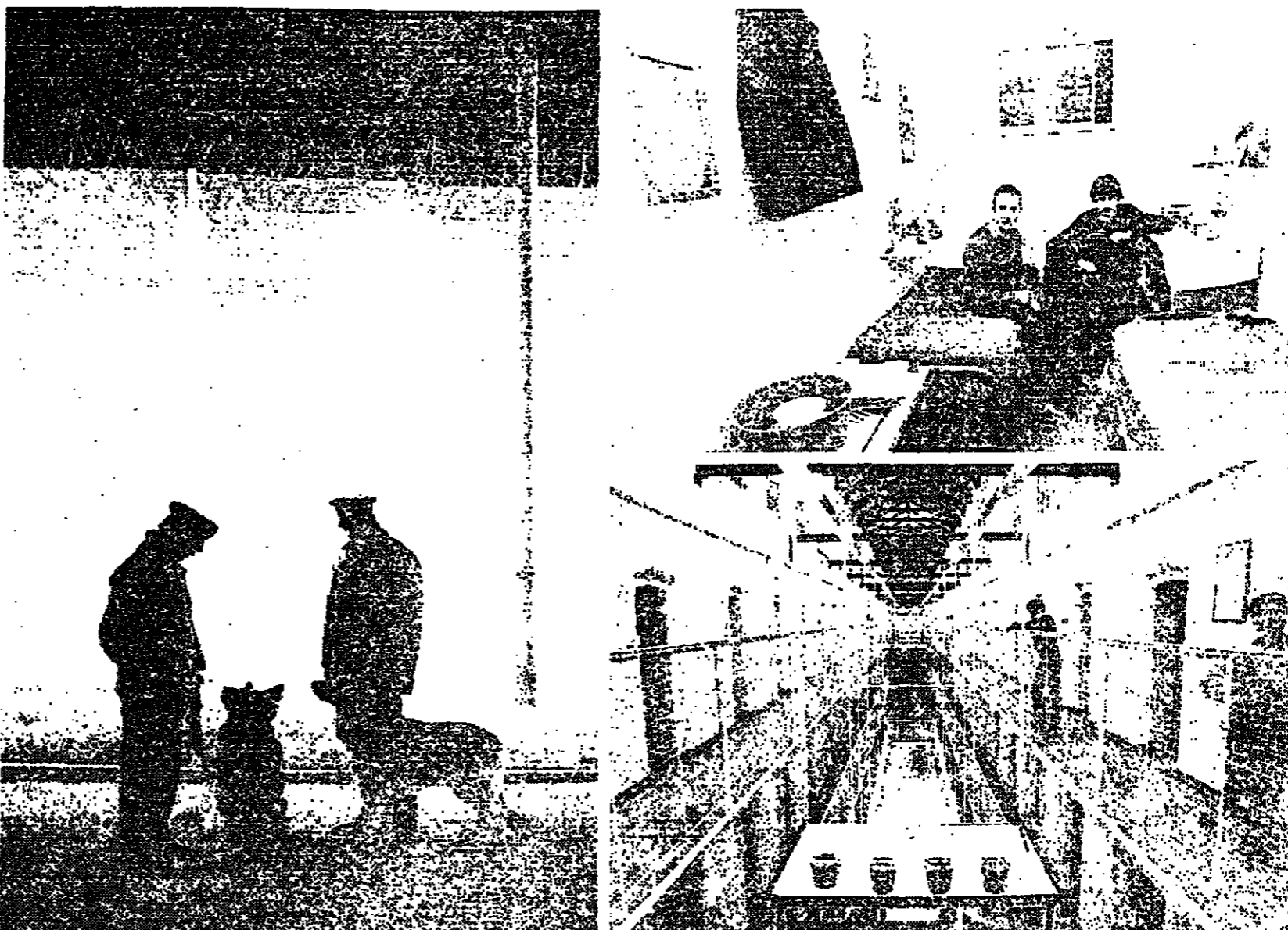
Since then the off-course betting duty has gone up from 7.5 to 8 per cent. The bookmakers say this has passed the "critical point" identified by the royal commission.

They say it led directly to a fall in profits last year, and has been responsible for the loss of 293 betting shops in the year to the end of last June.

The slump in the bookmakers' fortunes is borne out by Customs and Excise provisional figures for the raising of general betting duty in the financial year 1981-82. These show that after substantial percentage rises in revenue in each of the four preceding years, revenue went up only from £250m to £255m which, after allowing for inflation could be said to represent a decrease.

Latest estimates from the Bookmaking Offices Licensees Association (Bola), which represents most of Britain's leading firms, show an accelerating decrease in turnover.

But the racing industry cannot prove that such a decline is caused by the combination of high taxation and increasing illegal betting. It could equally well be a result of the recession.



Life at Wormwood Scrubs: Guard dogs and handlers patrolling the perimeter wall; two prisoners sharing a cell; and the landings of 'C' wing.

## New governor will take over a collapsing 'Scrubs'

When Mr Ian Dunbar takes over as governor of Wormwood Scrubs prison, in London at the end of the month he will find that he is having to cope with a prison that is falling down (Peter Evans writes).

"D" wing, which contains the most dangerous prisoners in the jail, is the latest part to show signs of collapse. A section of the floor is sagging nine inches below its proper level and has had to be roped off. That is bad news for headquarters administrators, who are already so short of

prisoners' accommodation in the South-east of England that inadequate police cells are having to be used.

Part of the pressure on the system comes from the closure of "A" wing at the Scrubs after the floor there began to collapse. The wing, which held 300 men, is being refurbished as part of a 20 year building programme for the prison.

The planners will have to decide whether "D" wing should be closed and if so where to put its

potentially dangerous population of IRA men, London gangsters, sex offenders and others in the highest security category.

Given the shortage of money, "D" wing's closure could put back plans for "B" and "C" wings, which are next in line for refurbishing, with integral sanitation. A failure to include cell lavatories in the refurbishing of "A" wing caused an outcry.

The first of a three-part series by Peter Evans on the cost of crime begins tomorrow.

## Cancer checks on nuclear test men

By Alan Hamilton

Exports in the statistics of cancer are examining claims that a significant number of ex-servicemen who took part in the British programme of nuclear bomb tests in the South Pacific between 1952 and 1958 have contracted, and in some cases died from, the disease.

Two television programmes to be screened this week, an independent production for Channel Four and the BBC's *Nationwide*, have between them assembled more than 130 case histories which, the victims assert, can be traced to radiation exposure during the series of nine test firings of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

Interest in the long-term effects of the tests has been fuelled by recent activity in both the United States and Australia. Judgement is expected soon on a series of claims from American Servicemen and their widows arising from the US nuclear test programme in the Nevada desert conducted at the same time as the British tests.

The Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association, having approached 600 Servicemen and civilians who participated in the bomb tests, found that 114 of them had died, 109 from cancer.

No proper survey of British

Servicemen has yet been carried out. But the case histories assembled by the BBC after a broadcast appeal last November have been passed for analysis to the medical faculty of Birmingham University, where there is a department specializing in cancer statistics.

In the past 10 years six claims for compensation from test series cancer victims or their widows have been brought before internal hearings at the Ministry of Defence, and all have been dismissed.

Of the 10,000 servicemen involved in the six-year test programme, a detachment of 300 were garrisoned on Christmas Island, where the last and largest of the hydrogen bomb tests took place. Among those was Mr Phillip Munn, of East Kilbride Lanarkshire, who was a sapper aged 22 and who now suffers from leukaemia.

Former Chief Petty Officer William Grigsby, of Liverpool, died of cancer six years ago. His widow, Mrs Ellen Grigsby, has applied for a war widow's pension after her husband's death, but was refused. She has been in touch with the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association, but at present there is no similar organization to coordinate and push the cases in Britain.

the way it is funded, by-passing the education service, but also because it is thought it would separate children.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour's education spokesman, says the initiative could bring back selection through the back door.

On the steering group are Mr Richard Knight, Bradford's director of education, Mrs Nikki Harrison, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, Mr Dudley Fiske, education officer at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Mr Philip Merridale, vice-chairman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, Mr John Horrell, chairman of the executive council of the Association of County Councils, and Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

## Council to discuss arts chief clash

By Christopher Warman Arts Correspondent

A special meeting of the Arts Council is being held today to try to resolve the embarrassing controversy over the appointment of the council's secretary-general to succeed Sir Roy Shaw when he retires.

Mr Luke Rittner, director of the Association of Business Sponsorship for the Arts, was recommended for the post by a seven-strong selection committee led by Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the council, but the full council rejected him on December 15 after opposition from some members and the presentation of a petition by senior council officers.

The selection committee, which includes a government representative, Sir James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, is to consider the matter before the meeting. The full council has set aside 45 minutes for a private session to discuss the next step. Mr Rittner, aged 35, is regarded as unsuitable for the post by senior staff and some members because of his inexperience and lack of qualifications.

The staff has emphasized there is nothing personal in their stand, which is more polite than the view of one or two members, who point to his academic background of three 'O' levels and drama school.

Sir William, an enthusiastic supporter of Mr Rittner's candidature, regard him as excellently qualified, and believes that his work in encouraging private sponsorship for the arts would be of great benefit in the future. Sir William has dismissed speculation that he might resign as chairman if Mr Rittner is rejected again.

He has accused them of conservatism in defending their entrenched positions, and a fear of change. That in turn has led to resentment among council staff, and the atmosphere at the council headquarters at 105 Piccadilly, is one of dismay as well as of intense speculation about the future.

If the council remains divided over the appointment it will have to decide whether to call in the other candidates or advertise the post again.

Today's special meeting will also discuss the crucial main allocation of its £22m government grant for 1983-84, which it will disclose on Wednesday.

## Group to oversee MSC scheme for teenagers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Fears of a takeover of part of the education system by the Manpower Services Commission, which is funding new technical courses for teenagers in schools, should be dispelled by the composition of the steering group to oversee the initiative, announced today.

The 15-member group, which will be chaired by Mr David Young, the MSC chairman, includes people representing local authority and education interests. Its first meeting will be on Wednesday and the group's first job will be to draw up guidelines for the scheme.

Called the New Technical and Vocational Education Initiative, the £7m scheme will enable 10 local authorities to set up pilot projects for pupils aged 14 to 18. It has aroused controversy not just because of

the way it is funded, by-passing the education service, but also because it is thought it would separate children.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour's education spokesman, says the initiative could bring back selection through the back door.

On the steering group are Mr Richard Knight, Bradford's director of education, Mrs Nikki Harrison, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, Mr Dudley Fiske, education officer at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Mr Philip Merridale, vice-chairman of the Association of County Councils' education committee, Mr John Horrell, chairman of the executive council of the Association of County Councils, and Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

the way it is funded, by-passing the education service, but also because it is thought it would separate children.

## Evangelical support for women priests

By Robert Nowell

Mixed feelings about the ordination of women was shown by the Anglican Evangelical Assembly when it took a vote to find out its members' views on the controversial issue at its inaugural meeting in London on Saturday.

Ordination of women to the diaconate, which the Church of England is now committed to introducing in spite of some reservations from the Catholic wing, was approved by an overwhelming majority of 80 in favour, none against, and eight abstentions.

However, the ordination of women to the presbyterate, in other words, women priests, was approved by the small majority of 48 votes to 29, with 11 abstentions. However, the idea of women bishops gained only 27 votes, with 41 against and 20 abstentions.

This marked difference reflects the view of many Evangelicals that scripture does not allow a woman to have authority over a man in the church.

## Queues for mortgages are forming again

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

House buyers are beginning to experience difficulties in obtaining mortgages and there is some evidence that queues are starting to form in spite of record takings by building societies, a survey published today says.

In its latest State of the Trade Inquiry the House Builders' Federation indicates that an increasing number of its members are experiencing difficulty in obtaining mortgages for buyers. Even more builders say they are having trouble in selling houses because of delays in other buyers in the chain being granted mortgages.

Even so, optimism is spreading through the house building industry for the first time in more than two years. Almost all builders taking part in the survey said they expect to maintain or improve their activity this year, and more than half expected an increase in the number of new homes they start this year.

More than half said they will take on workers this year and a

further third expect at least to maintain the present number of men.

Although most of the demand for new homes comes from first-time buyers, the survey indicates increasing interest from existing owners. Lower interest rates and inflation are tempting more people into the market.

Reports of a rapid improvement in house sales are confirmed by the survey. In the last quarter of 1982, the inquiry notes, sales were brisker than usual. Only about one builder in ten reported a decline.

Mr Peter Woodrow, president of the federation, said: "House builders are well placed to take full advantage of the consumer boom expected this year. With falling interest rates and current low house prices, it will certainly be cheaper for many people in 1983 to buy a new house than to rent. An upturn in house building will not only benefit house buyers, it will also create new jobs on a scale few industries can match."

Property column, page 19

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## NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES 25th ISSUE



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# Government plans upset by gas board refusal to endorse oil field bids

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Government's privatization programme has suffered a setback with the refusal by British Gas to recommend any of the private sector bids that have been made for its stake in the Wytch Farm, Britain's largest offshore oil field.

The board of the corporation has told Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, that it cannot endorse any of the three bids, submitted by oil companies and City investment institutions, on the ground that they seriously undervalue the asset which British Gas believes is worth £450m.

The refusal is likely to worsen the already strained relations between the corporation and the ministers at the Department of Energy, and leaves the Government with a delicate task if it is to avoid new charges of selling national oil assets at too low a price.

It is almost 18 months since the Government announced it was ordering the gas corporation to sell its 50 per cent interest in Wytch Farm, a 0.33 billion barrel producing oil field on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset.

Mr Lawson, British Gas's chairman, Sir Denis Rooke, have opposed the disposal since the outset and it was last July before bids

were invited from the private sector.

Only three bids have been received, which is fewer than the Government hoped. They are all believed to value the Wytch Farm stake at less than half the £450m price tag put on the field by the corporation.

Comparison of the bids is complicated by the fact that none is a simple cash offer. They are all believed to be



Mr Lawson: Faces unpalatable decision

conditional on future levels of production and on planning permission being obtained for drilling in a remote and environmentally sensitive part of the field.

City sources say that the initial cash payment the Government will receive from two of the three bidders if their offers are accepted will be no more than £100m, less than a quarter of British Gas's valuation. That figure could rise in years to come as production rises.

Ministers are furious at the way British Gas has left them with an unpalatable political decision by putting an initial valuation they feel is based on absurdly optimistic assumptions about the future course of oil prices and the level of reserves in the field.

If they go ahead now, they will be open to accusations of selling the field at a knockdown price. After the Amersham and Britoil share issues, one over-subscribed the other under-subscribed, the Government is aware that denationalizing energy assets is a political minefield. There is speculation that the Wytch Farm disposal may now be dropped until after the election.

# Compulsory interviews may precede divorce

From Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Divorcing couples may be obliged to discuss custody of children and access to them with welfare officers before court hearings, under proposals being considered by an inter-departmental committee of civil servants.

Such interviews are compulsory in many county courts, where welfare officers help to solve disputed issues through negotiation. Defended divorces have in some places, for instance, virtually been eliminated.

From the beginning of this year a compulsory interview scheme was started at the Divorce Registry at Somerset House. Announcing the scheme, Mr B. P. Tickle, senior registrar, said: "It is extremely important that no affidavit should be filed until after an unsuccessful conciliation appointment or until the registrar has directed."

A committee of senior civil servants from the Home Office, Treasury, the Central Policy Review Staff and the Lord Chancellor's department is examining the in-court schemes, and out of court conciliation schemes, where counselling is offered at a much earlier stage.

It is studying evidence from about ten centres in the country where pilot schemes have been running, the most well known of which is the family courts conciliation service at Bristol.

Despite the proven success of schemes such as Bristol's in solving disputes on custody, access, and finance and cutting court costs, it seems likely that, given the constraints on public expenditure, the committee will favour an extension of the in-court conciliation schemes being run by registrars.

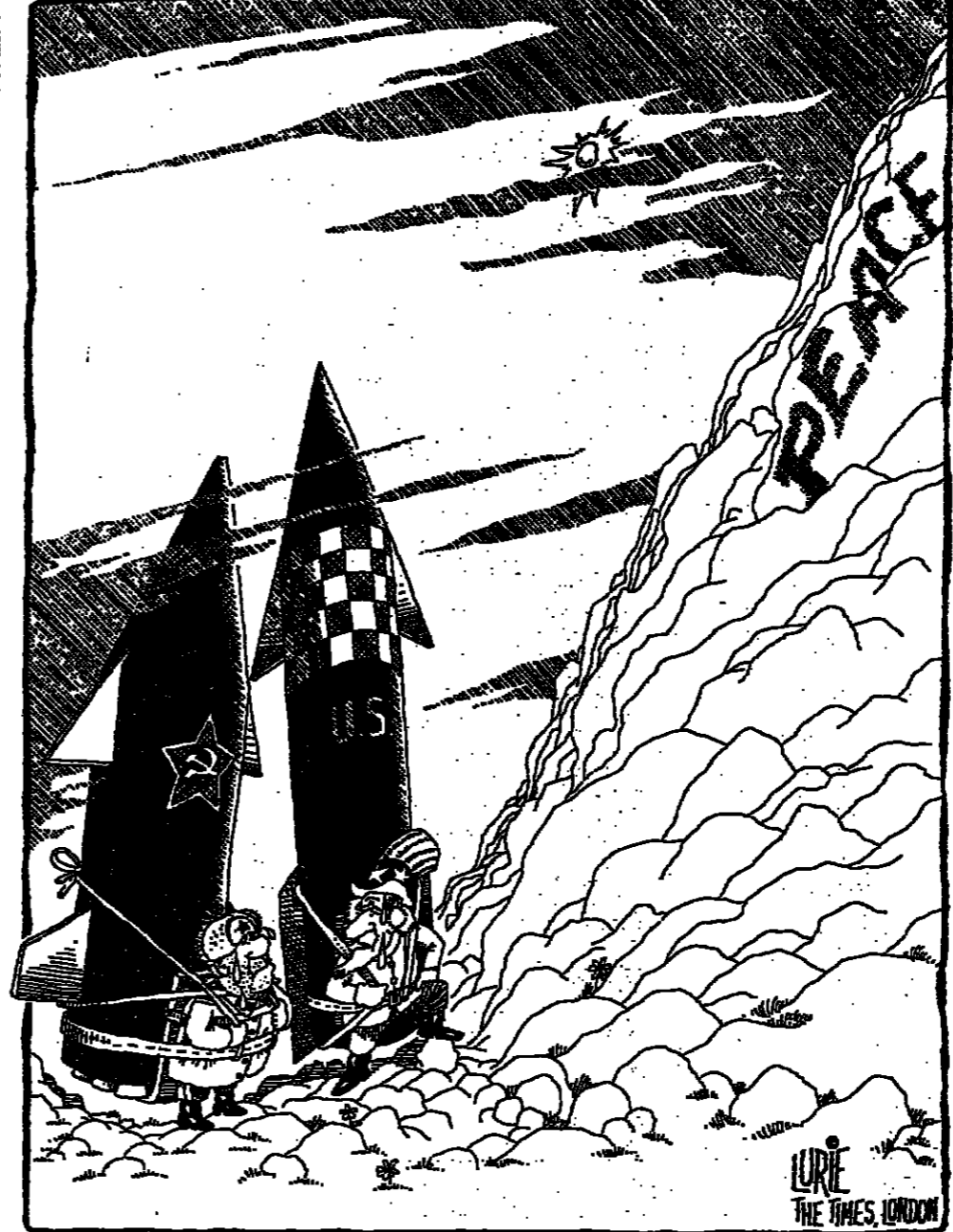
They come into play after the parties have filed petitions. They are asked to attend court and meet a welfare officer to resolve some areas of disagreement by negotiation.

Barristers specializing in family law, welcome the procedure, but there is some concern over the London scheme's involvement of children.

The interdepartmental committee, which was due to publish its report this month, is not expected to do so until April.

Romance is not dead for British wives, who say they married for love, are still in love with their husbands and would marry the same man again, according to a report published today (the Press Association reports).

The women do not see divorce as an easy way out of a difficult relationship and divorce is itself declining, the survey in *Options* magazine says.



'Let's face it - it won't be a picnic!'

# Cruise bargaining has makings of an agreement at Geneva

In the first of four articles examining the state of East-West disarmament negotiations, RODNEY COWTON, Defence Correspondent, assesses the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force talks which are due to resume in Geneva on January 31.

## EAST-WEST ARMS TALKS Part 1

One of the big political issues of 1983 is going to be the controversy over the proposed deployment of cruise missiles in Britain, West Germany, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands and of Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany.

While there will be much activity at Greenham Common, and at the Continental sites for these missiles, accompanied by demonstrations in Trafalgar Square and elsewhere, it is likely that the decisive action will be around the negotiating table at Geneva.

The planned deployment of the 572 Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles is a direct response by the West to the threat perceived in the Soviet deployment of its SS20 missiles. But it was only one half of that response; the other element was to offer the Soviet Union negotiations on the reduction of ground-based intermediate-range, or theatre, nuclear missiles.

As a result, the Intermediate Range Nuclear Force (INF) 1981. They take place in sessions lasting two months, with a two-month interval between. After three such sessions, they resume on January 27.

The talks are conducted on a bilateral basis between the US and the Soviet Union, with other Nato countries not directly involved, though kept closely in touch by America. So far the results have obscured rather than clarified the issues.

The American position has the advantage of simplicity and clarity, though in terms of likely political manoeuvrings this year it may also prove to have the

disadvantage of rigidity. Basically, the US has said that if Russia will remove its already deployed land-based theatre nuclear missiles, there will be no need for the West to deploy the Cruise and Pershing 2s. This is the zero option.

On Western calculations, Russia has deployed about 350 rather than the 450 SS4 and SS5 missiles, each with a single warhead, which are in the process of being replaced by the SS20, highly mobile, much more accurate, with a greater range, and three warheads per missile.

Of the SS20s, about 230 are thought to be aimed at West Europe, with the remaining 100 being deployed in the Far East. The West contends that it has no equivalent ground-based missiles in Europe.

In response to the American zero option the Soviet Union has come up with proposals which embrace not merely ground-based missiles, but also include aircraft with nuclear strike capacity, based not only on the European mainland, but also in aircraft carriers. They have also put in the scales the British and French nuclear deterrent forces.

On this basis, aid by the careful exclusion of certain types of their aircraft and inclusion of some categories of American aircraft, they have come to the conclusion that there is at present rough parity in theatre nuclear weapons.

It was this sort of arithmetic which led, before Christmas, to a radical reduction of medium-range nuclear missiles on the basis of the principle of equal security.

Mr Papandreou said he hoped a positive response would come not only from Nato countries, but also from the conferences in Vienna, Geneva, and Madrid, or "even within the framework of a summit meeting of the two blocks".

The Greek reaction to the Prague declaration is in line with the Papandreou government's non-conformist philosophy within Nato that gives de facto priority over the current misgivings about the effectiveness of Western security.

Mr Papandreou has publicly opposed the deployment by Nato of medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, said at the weekend that Soviet block proposals for a non-aggression pact were worth considering, but he described them as a clever move and urged caution in any negotiations on the subject with Mr Yuri Andropov, the Soviet leader (Reuters reports).

The Canadian position was cautiously guarded he said, but Mr Andropov had "hit upon some tactically sound avenues".

# Shadow of Bonn poll falls on EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

West Germany is now and for the next six months at the helm of the European Community. Tomorrow in Strasbourg Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and President of the Council of Ministers, will spell out his hopes and aims for Europe over the next six months, and a daunting list of projects it will be.

But Herr Genscher personifies the dilemma of the West German Government as it faces up to the responsibilities of running the Council of Ministers. For although he is the doyen of all the foreign ministers in the Community, widely respected and known for his experience, he is fighting a desperate domestic election battle for survival. On March 6, when the West German electorate goes to the polls, all the signs are that he will be voted out of office.

Herr Genscher has, therefore, to decide whether to concentrate on working for Europe or for his own seat in the Bundestag. Most probably he will compromise and skilfully exploit the power and prestige of the presidency to give him invaluable publicity in his struggle for political survival.

He has already achieved considerable attention from the media by calling an urgent meeting in Brussels last week to discuss the fisheries crisis - a meeting he will continue in Strasbourg tomorrow morning in a further effort to break the deadlock. Should he succeed where so many others have failed over the past six years he is not expected modestly to hide the fact from his electorate.

Fishing apart, the West German presidency has put forward an ambitious 12-point programme for action and not all of it can be put off until March 6. Most early progress can be expected, however, on those subjects which will appeal to the West German voter, while feet in Bonn are likely to be dragged over unpopular subjects and in particular the British budget problem.

Thus the fight against unemployment, opening up the Community's internal market, fighting against protectionism worldwide, improving East-West relations, and helping Turkey back to democracy, are all likely priority areas.

Above all, emphasis will be placed on trying to get agreement on the unfortunately named European Act. This proposal for greater European union was largely Herr Genscher's brainchild, helped by his Italian counterpart, Signor Emilio Colombo. The fact that it is known in Community jargon as the "Genscher-Colombo plan" shows why the West German minister will work hard for its approval despite the many misgivings about it in most other member states.

The British budget problem, however, is a very unpopular subject in Bonn, whichever party is in power. Solving it inevitably means that the West German taxpayer must pay more and it was because she understood this that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is said to have promised privately not to press the subject too hard until after the West German elections.

Equally, she has made it clear that she is expecting significant progress on finding a long-term solution by the March summit meeting, so the next West German government will have precious little time to create a worthwhile initiative.

A poll last week drawn up for the European Commission showed that the average West German felt he received less out of Community membership than any other nationality apart from the British. For all his promises tomorrow to the European Parliament, Herr Genscher is unlikely to say anything which might lose him a single vote back home.

Herr Genscher: Desperate fight for survival.

It is clear that Russia for military reasons, and the west for political reasons, would love to find a means of averting the deployment, for the Cruise and Pershing missiles. In those two acts there ought to be the makings of an agreement.

Next: The strategic arms reduction talks.

# Race factor alarm in murder case

Scotland Yard is dragging its feet in the investigation of a possible racialist motive in the London murder of close relatives of the Real Madrid football player, Laurie Cunningham.

The Jamaican-born sportsman said in an interview published yesterday (Harry West Debeltus writes from Madrid).

Mr Cunningham's sister-in-law, Mrs Norma Cunningham, aged 27, and her daughters, Samantha, aged 9, and Syreeta, aged 7, were killed in her flat in Kingsgate Estate, Dalston, last July. The younger girl was found drowned in the bath and her mother and sister were found stabbed to death.

The black British football player said in an interview in the Madrid newspaper, *El Mundo*, that the walls of the flat were marked with the initials of the National Front party, in metallic blue nail polish, and a phrase scratched on the wall of a bedroom read: "This is what we're going to do with all niggers".

He said police told him not to discuss what he saw when he returned to England with his brother and visited the flat immediately after learning of the multiple murder.

"The National Front is very powerful in Dalston", Mr Cunningham said. "There are a lot of skinheads on the streets there, so I don't understand why Scotland Yard is not putting as much effort into investigating in that direction as it is in others. But then, it is also true that there are a lot of members of NF in the police."

"If it had been three white persons killed and three white 'B P' (Black Power) had been written on the wall they'd have already found the criminal."

Jewelry theft

Police yesterday were hunting thieves who stole £30,000 of gems from a jewelry shop in South Molton Street, in the West End of London, yesterday. The thieves used keys they had stolen earlier from the home of the shop's owner.

Home next winter for Mr Philip Groves and his wife, Mariwen, and their daughter will be a caravan on the Gower Peninsula buffeted by the strong winds which will whip off the wild Atlantic rollers. For the Airey home in which they have lived for 34 years has been condemned as unfit by Swansea City Council and is to be demolished.

Seven other families in the picturesque West Glamorgan village of Croft are also to be moved out of their homes because of the weaknesses which threaten to bring reinforced concrete slabs crashing to the ground. Mrs Groves, aged 57, and the other householders learned that their houses were dangerous on a hot sunny day in July, 1981, when a council minibus pulled up outside their semi-detached properties and a council official stepped out to tell them the bad news.

Mrs Groves said: "It was a terrible shock to learn that the house in which I have lived

# Round two opens in Stansted battle

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Opponents of expansion at Heathrow airport claim that the proposed fifth terminal could not open before 1995. Critics, led by the British Airports Authority, will argue at a public inquiry which opens tomorrow that the Stansted solution would therefore be a cheaper, faster and more flexible answer to the demand for extra passenger capacity.

The authority, which owns both airports, is at the centre of a planning battle among local councils which want to divert the provision of extra airline capacity away from their areas.

The battle began in mid-1980, when the authority applied to Uttlesford District Council, in Essex, for permission to enlarge Stansted into London's third airport.

A year later Uttlesford tried to trump the authority by asking for permission for a fifth terminal at Heathrow. Three are at present in use and a fourth is being built.

The authority spent at least £1m last year at the long public inquiry about expansion at Stansted. It will spend almost as much this year on the new inquiry, which will begin at a hotel near Heathrow. Mr Graham Eyre, QC, the inspector

who presided at Stansted, will again be in charge. He will make simultaneous recommendations to ministers about both projects next year or in 1985.

The authority's opposition to the new terminal is shared by several county district councils to the west of London, the Greater London Council and at least 10 of the capital's borough councils. They want to stop expansion at Heathrow and divert it to Stansted, while councils to the east of the capital are promoting growth at Heathrow while opposing all but the smallest enlargement of Stansted.

Heathrow is now the world's busiest airport and the councils opposing the fifth terminal all believe that its surroundings are too crowded to accept further growth.

British Airways' campaign for a fifth terminal at Heathrow suffered a further setback yesterday with the new evidence from the British Airports Authority (Our Transport Editor writes).

The authority published a new American study which purports to show that the growth in aircraft size, on which BA's case largely rests, will not happen.

# Herpes treatment claim

By Our Medical Correspondent

A claim by American doctors that planned trials of vaccination against genital herpes represents a breakthrough has irritated clinicians at Birmingham University who say they have already successfully treated cases and demonstrated the potential advantages of vaccination. They are concerned that the British research fails to gain credit.

Dr G. R. B. Skinner and his team from the department of medical microbiology report that in a recent trial the unaffected sexual partners of 60 known sufferers were given two vaccinations. None of the partners developed the disease after a second vaccination.

In another group, where the consort had already had one attack, a course of three vaccinations stopped further attacks in 75 per cent of the cases. In those patients who did have another attack the signs and symptoms were less severe and occurred less frequently.

It is normally assumed that 75 per cent of patients whose partners have herpes will develop the disease within a year.

Since the trial, reported in the *British Journal of Venerology*, was completed in June last year, a further 190 people at risk had been vaccinated by the Birmingham team; only two subsequently developed the disease, and they both had mild symptoms.

The vaccine used is prepared from herpes type one, the germ which causes the ordinary cold sore around the mouth. Venerologists have frequently noticed that patients who suffer from oral herpes only have mild symptoms with genital herpes.

The work in Birmingham seems to have shown that artificial vaccination with type one oral herpes virus gives an even greater degree of protection than the natural immunity obtained from having a cold sore. The only vaccination side effect noted has been a sore arm, lasting for three to six days. Where a woman did not realize that she was pregnant and had been vaccinated, there have been no demonstrable ill effects to the baby.

# Concern over stolen goods sold at auction

Tony Samstag

Two recent sales of stolen goods brought to auction and subsequently confiscated by the police have raised the issue of what, if any, responsibility the sale rooms have for making good the buyer's loss.

One collector who bought a painting at Christie's in 1978 and had to relinquish it to the police is suing the auctioneers for the return of £19,000, plus a 10 per cent buyers' premium. Christie's, however, claim that the small print in their condition of sale absolves them of responsibility. Details of the case are published in the *Antiques Trade Gazette*.

Last month, a similar case involved two Meissen corkscrew teapots sold by Phillips in October for £5,352 (including the premium) and VAT. Phillips promised to repay the buyer, while emphasizing that they were not legally required to do so.

In law, buyers can sue a dealer, even if he acted innocently, for the recovery of money paid for goods that turn out to be stolen. Most auctioneers' conditions of sale state, however, that no warranty is given and they only act as agents for the vendor.

Mr Bersford Wilcox is suing Christie's on the grounds that they did not identify the vendor and owed him a "duty of care" to ensure that a good title was being passed on.

# Papandreou hails Prague initiative

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The most positive and unreserved Nato response to the Warsaw Pact's offer of a non-aggression pact has come from Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister of Greece, who called for a summit between the two blocks to discuss the proposal.

Hailing the Prague initiative as a "courageous offer" to the Atlantic alliance, Mr Papandreou expressed the hope that it would elicit a "substantial response" from Nato countries.

Using almost the words of the declaration, the Greek leader said that since the "zero solution" was still not possible, "we should at least bring about

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# The house of cards Demolishing the wonder homes

From Tim Jones, Croft, Gower Peninsula

Home next winter for Mr Philip Groves and his wife, Mariwen, and their daughter will be a caravan on the Gower Peninsula buffeted by the strong winds which will whip off the wild Atlantic rollers. For the Airey home in which they have lived for 34 years has been condemned as unfit by Swansea City Council and is to be demolished.

Seven other families in the picturesque West Glamorgan village of Croft are also to be moved out of their homes because of the weaknesses which threaten to bring reinforced concrete slabs crashing to the ground. Mrs Groves, aged 57, and the other householders learned that their houses were dangerous on a hot sunny day in July, 1981, when a council minibus pulled up outside their semi-detached properties and a council official stepped out to tell them the bad news.

Mrs Groves said: "It was a terrible shock to learn that the house in which I have lived

ever since being married could collapse like a pack of cards. I have lived in this little village all my life and the thought of leaving Croft is terrible".

She added: "Until that day we had lived in the house fairly happily. We moved in when we were married and it was so nice. It has hot water, a bathroom and toilet and it was so much better than what I had known before."

There are more than 25,000 Airey homes in Britain and their structural faults are causing concern to local authorities throughout the land. The problem has been caused because the metal pipes which form the central core of the support pillars are expanding and rusting, causing the concrete to flake and crack.

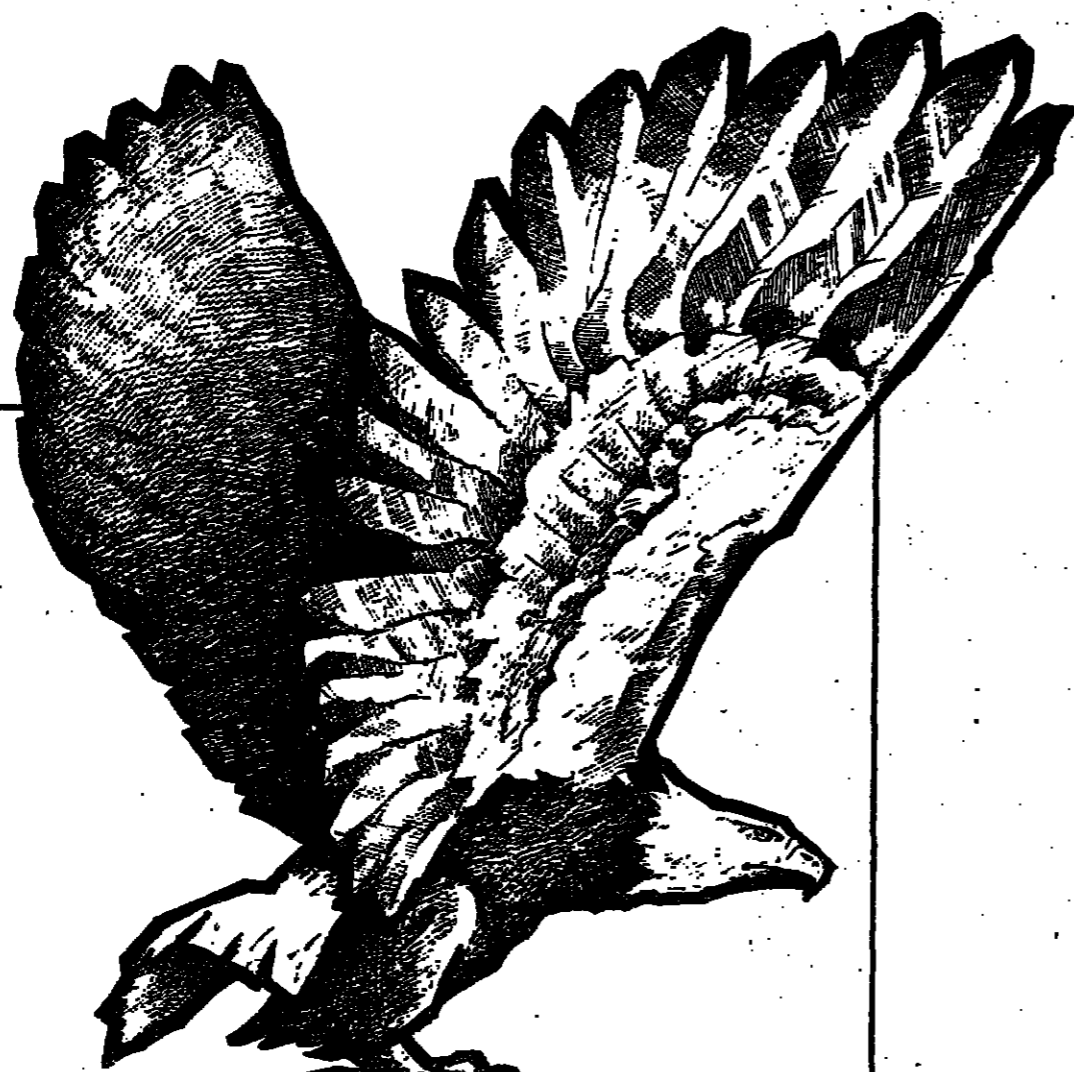
Mrs Groves said: "Apart from the fact that the houses have always been cold, there is no obvious sign that anything is wrong with them. But on a quiet day, when the wind is not blowing, you can hear the house cracking. Some of the concrete slabs are now only hanging on wires."

"We should be paying £18.20 in rent, but the council has allowed us to keep to the old rate because the houses are condemned. Until the structural troubles were pointed out, our main complaint was the cold and the cost of heating. There is

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WINTER SALE STARTS TODAY  
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## Argentina exploits the Cuban connexion

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Latin American politics, jolted by the Falklands war is settling back into its old complexities; but Argentina remains defiant. Not only are Washington's Buenos Aires is pursuing its newly found friendship with Nicaragua and Cuba with a vengeance.

The most striking example of this policy will be the presence of Senor Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari, the Argentine Foreign Minister, at a meeting of the executive body of the non-aligned countries which begins today in Managua to discuss the crisis in Central America and provoke memories of the Falklands war.

Nicaragua, seeking to undermine the regional gathering that endorsed United States policy in Central America last autumn, called for the meeting knowing the non-aligned countries provide it with its most sympathetic forum. Despite intense lobbying by Washington against the Sandinist Government, it won a diplomatic victory by winning a two-year term on the Security Council, a measure of Third World support.

The meeting also comes in

the wake of ministerial talks attended by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama on new initiatives for defusing the Central American crisis and will attempt to seize the growing displeasure with Washington's tactics, which stem negotiated settlements in El Salvador's civil war and in tensions between Honduras and Nicaragua.

After the release of authoritative reports of CIA operations to subvert the Sandinist Government, the military, consistently issuing warnings of imminent aggression, not only feels vindicated but has enough fuel in its propaganda war with Washington to make the non-aligned meeting more than a success.

For propaganda reasons Argentina's attendance gains in significance. Senor Aguirre Lanari's participation pays back a debt incurred during the Falklands conflict, when Nicaragua sounded one of the more unequivocal voices of support.

Nicaragua in a sense has plotted the path the Argentine military regime is following for reinforced international support

## Kirk drama loses sight of real issues

From Christopher Follett Esbjerg

The publicity surrounding Captain Kent Kirk's challenge to Britain's new 12-mile offshore fishing limits last week has obscured the reality behind Denmark's booming intramurals in the EEC fisheries dispute.

At stake for Denmark is its position as the European Community's biggest fish exporter, employing 100,000 people. It is the world's third largest exporter after the United States and Japan. There are 15,000 Danish fishermen at sea, the same number of people employed ashore and a further 70,000 working in auxiliary industries.

Although representing only 1.5 per cent of Denmark's gross domestic product, fishing plays a more important role in Denmark's economy than in that of any other EEC nation.

The common fisheries policy, agreed by Denmark's EEC partners last month, offered Britain, the biggest EEC fishing nation, 35 per cent of the total catch in Community waters, allotting Denmark about 23 per cent, roughly 7 per cent less than it had demanded.

According to the Danish Fishery Industry Export Association, the policy as it stands would have cost Denmark more than 7,000 jobs and at least 1,000m kroner (£72m) a year in lost exports.

Denmark exports fish worth 7,000m kroner a year, 85 per cent of it for human consumption, mainly top quality white fish such as plaice and cod, which reaches the centre of Europe in time to be sold the following day, thanks to an efficient distribution system. The remainder is industrial fish.

Denmark is today the main exporter of fish to West Germany and the Benelux countries as well as dominating the British, French, Swiss and Italian markets.

At the root of the controversy with Britain are questions of cost-effectiveness and structure. Denmark's fishing fleet of 7,000 boats is almost wholly privately owned by the skippers themselves. While British fishing boats are normally manned by eight men, the Danes have crews of four who share 50 per cent of the total catch value, the rest going to running costs and reinvestment.

It is the size of the catch which determines the earnings of Danish fishermen, who can earn up to £20,000 in a successful year.

Since 1975 Esbjerg, which is Denmark's biggest fishing port, has modernized and halved its fishing fleet to 315 vessels. It had just begun to feel more optimistic about the future. Fifty per cent of Esbjerg's 1,300 fishermen's catches feed the port's three fishmeal plants, one of which is the biggest in the EEC.

At the heart of Danish fishing organizations' criticisms of the common fisheries policy is their conviction that it transfers fishing quotas from efficient industries to those less capable of effectively processing catches, leaving the consumer to pay the bill.

## Crime wave worries Russians

Moscow (Reuter) - The Soviet Union's top law enforcement officer has expressed alarm about the lack of public order in some parts of the country and said that people are deeply disturbed by the activities of criminals.

In an article yesterday in *Pravda*, Mr Alexander Reukov, Procurator-General, said: "Any indulgence towards malicious criminals cannot be tolerated."

Mr Reukov made special mention of hooligans, drunkards, speculators, grafters, embezzlers and people who disrupt production. He said that punishment for vehicle thefts and small-scale robbery would now be more severe.

The Procurator-General said that in the city of Gorky, east Moscow, residents complained that it was dangerous to walk in the streets at night.

He criticized the Gorky authorities for complacency and said several policemen and law officials had been punished for not carrying out their duties.

Law and order has been a major theme of the Soviet media since the new party leader, Mr Yuri Andropov, launched a big campaign against corruption and petty crime. Last month, the leadership announced longer prison terms.

In his *Pravda* article, Mr Reukov said: "Instances of covering up crimes are persisting in the organs of internal affairs."

He said that in Georgia higher penalties for burglary had justified themselves and that other republics had adopted similar measures. Criminals had often been restored to their former status in society. In future, people who ignored court decisions banning certain individuals from particular posts would be prosecuted. Habitual criminals should feel the full weight of Soviet legal retribution and tougher measures were now being taken against them, Mr Reukov said.



Poznan's towering achievement

A crane lifting one of two restored towers into position atop a Franciscan church in Poznan, Poland. The twin towers had been missing from the church since Poznan's liberation in 1945. In a three-day operation the giant crane first lifted the bases of the two cupolas 180 ft above street level, and then brought up the tops of the towers, each weighing 17½ tons, finally restoring the church to its original splendour.

## Polish journalist attacks martial law in church

From Roger Boyes, Podkowa Lesna, Poland

In an unusual challenge to the Polish authorities, a leading journalist, yesterday criticized martial law and spoke with rare candour about relations between Warsaw and Moscow.

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, former head of the Polish journalists' union, was speaking to 500 worshippers at a church in the former spa resort of Podkowa Lesna. He described martial law as a military success but a political failure which had widened the gap between the leaders and the led.

"More of society is convinced that martial law was aimed at society as a whole rather than at small groups of extremists," Mr Bratkowski said in his first address to a public gathering since martial law was declared. Mr Bratkowski, who was interrupted by occasional ripples of applause, analysed the reasons for martial law, claiming that it was the result of competing and frustrated power elites - and said that Poland must experience genuine reforms.

The Soviet Union too had to reform itself in order to relieve the strains on its economy and the prospect of unrest in the Baltic and central Asian republics.

But in the Soviet Union, in contrast to Poland, such pressure for change had to come from the leadership rather than popular discontent because Russians identified with their state. "This is not very easy for us to understand but these are the facts," Mr Bratkowski said.

The journalist, who was expelled from the Communist Party before the declaration of martial law, called for "agreements - a *modus vivendi*" in Poland, an "an honest appraisal of the Soviet-Polish relationship."

● WARSAW: More than 1,000 of the men and women who were interned under martial law have since applied to emigrate to the West, the Communist Party newspaper *Trybuna Ludu* reported (Reuter reports).

It said that 1,228 former internees were among 4,166 people officially registered as applying to leave between March and December last year. Passports had been issued to 500 of those registered but only 144 had so far received visas from Western countries.

## Palme budget will hit 'lame ducks'

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Olof Palme's recently elected socialist Government today presents an austerity budget aimed at correcting the imbalance in the Swedish economy. The budget is unlikely to find favour with either the party's left wing or the powerful union movement.

The budget statement by Mr Kjell-Olof Feldt, the Finance Minister, cuts state subsidies to "lame duck" industries and contains no mention of many promised reforms, among them the controversial socialist election pledge to introduce so-called wage-earner funds which would allow the unions to buy shares in private industry.

The aim of the budget, Mr Feldt says, is to break the recent trend towards an annual increase of the central government deficit.

He says the budget deficit for the 1983-84 financial year is expected to amount to 90,000m kroner (£7,500m), compared with 91,800m kroner for the current financial year. In terms of gross national product it will fall from 14 per cent to around 12.5 per cent.

"By way of a very restrictive budgetary process it has been possible to keep the deficit down, despite the fact that the expenditures for interest payments will increase by almost 11 billion Swedish kroner," Mr Feldt says.

He admits that inflation will increase to an estimated 11.5 per cent, while wages will increase by 7 per cent, and he says unemployment is likely to remain at present levels (estimated at 3.5 per cent, but thousands of workers are in subsidized employment and thousands more on reeducation courses with little hope of finding a job when they finish).

The Government's forecast for the economy gives a growth rate in 1983 of 1.4 per cent, equal, Mr Feldt says, to the average for the industrialized nations but higher than the European average.

He says that private consumption will fall by 2.5 per cent as real incomes are cut and that total consumption will be cut by more than 1 per cent.

But the improved competitiveness of Swedish industry, from the Government's 16 per cent devaluation will allow Swedish companies to expand in both export and domestic markets.

## Swedes seized in Riga

From Our Correspondent, Stockholm

A Swedish woman and her daughter, arrested while visiting relatives in Latvia, were expected to be deported today in possible retaliation for the expulsion of three Russians by Sweden at Christmas.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said the woman, Mrs Baiba Vitolins, aged 45, Latvian-born, had been interrogated for 12 hours by police in Riga, the Latvian capital, before being told she would be expelled.

Mr Juris Kazas, an American journalist who was in Riga at the time, said Mrs Vitolins had been accused of illegal currency dealings and would be put on a boat to Helsinki today with her 17-year-old daughter Iga.

Diplomats in Stockholm said the deportation could be the first move in a clampdown on Swedish visitors following Sweden's explanation of two Soviet diplomats and a Russian civilian accused of spying.

# The FT calls it 'the business news-story of a lifetime'

How the end of a monopoly brings a new beginning to the world's largest corporation.

Over the next year, American Telephone and Telegraph will give up its monopoly-control of America's telephone service.

A giant corporation which today employs a million people, and has assets greater than Exxon, Mobil and General Motors put together, is splitting itself into pieces. The search is on for new markets all over the world.

Two FT writers have been working inside AT&T to research "the business news-story of a lifetime." They wanted to know what shape the new company will take, who its competitors will be, and what the changes mean for world telecommunications.

The answers are contained in a series of exclusive articles which begin in the FT today. Can you afford to miss them?

**No FT...no comment.**

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The Times Profile: The House of Indira Gandhi

The family plot at No 1 Safdarjang Road

Indira Nehru Gandhi's great-grandfather was a police chief in the service of the last Mughal emperor of India. Her grandfather was a successful lawyer who sent his son to Harrow and later exchanged English plinthe for coarse nationalist homespun. Her father was chosen by Mahatma Gandhi to rule free India and was prime minister for 17 years.

She herself does so for a salary of £140 a month, plus perks. Her taciturn younger son, Sanjay, is sobering to reflect, might have inherited her chair. Her diffident eldest son, Rajiv, took his place at her side. Her jealous daughter-in-law, Maneka, persona non grata at court, broods on the sidelines. This is the House of Nehru, the phenomenon of Indian politics, the power in the land.

Mrs Gandhi herself is now entering the fourth year of her fourth premiership, her fifteenth year in power. She is fit, lean and active, but she is 65 and it is reasonable to consider the question of succession. India's democracy is, after all, a singular one, with its elements of autocracy and dynasty.

There is some resentment of this, but no strong opposition because it meets a yearning in the Indian psyche. As the Times of India put it in 1981, "India needs an emperor or empress. People crave an individual to whom they can entrust their destiny."

The Nehru family have always considered themselves special, a cut above. They have enjoyed the advantages of apartness, free of the shackles of caste and regional and linguistic loyalties. Indian but also outward-looking, well-off Kashmiri Brahmins, broadminded, western-educated politicians, Nehru equipped that he was India's first English prime minister.

There was no question of the strong-willed Indira submitting to orthodox arranged marriage. Feroze Gandhi, a Parsi, proposed in Paris and bestowed on her a surname of incalculable value - there is still a belief, both within and outside India, that Indira is related to the Matsyas.

The Gandhis (Feroze died in 1960) had two sons: Rajiv married Sonia, an Italian he met at Cambridge (and his mother loves Italian cooking); Sanjay married Maneka, a Sikh model who liked wearing jeans, considered racy in India.

Indira ran her father's home during his premiership, and while it is arguable whether he consciously prepared her for power (and she denies that he did), her years as chaperone were a unique apprenticeship.

She is, of course, quite different from the idealist who ruled in the first flush of independence and delighted in the debates that rolled over the Lok Sabha's Westminster-green benches. Her lonely, and uncertain upbringing with an adored mother who died young, and a frequently absent father, left her insecure, mistrustful, intolerant of criticism, fiercely determined to be independent to dominate. No one ever pushed her around and no one outside her family has grown close to her. She has never been hamstrung by ideology or policy.

Nothing has been allowed to grow strong enough to threaten her. "India is India, India is India", was the slogan of the 1970s, the synthesis of herself and country, symbolizing her coronation and her belief that she embodies the people's will. Her popularity has always been her ultimate comfort. To millions, as she says, she is known as "Mother".

Mrs Gandhi presides over an awesome experiment in mass democracy in a land of 720,000,000, seven-tenths of whom are illiterate. She is shrewd in a way her father was not, with an acute sense of Realpolitik. She has never had any illusions about the venality of many politicians, or of the nature of Indian politics. Caste, for example, is an intractable part of society's fibre, a force for order and stability in spite of its rivalries and injustices, and is therefore part of the currency of politics, supplying readymade interest groups. Inevitably, grand western and Nehruvian notions of democracy are digested by Indian massiveness and tradition.

Last week she was shaken by a fat film star

Mrs Gandhi is not only experienced but has the rare attribute of being an all-India figure. Her supporters say her mastery has created stability and national focus in a country where there are regional, communal and caste strains. It has not been torn in the manner of other developing countries, remains enviably free, and its soldiers cast no shadows.

Out of Mrs Gandhi's fears and political machete-work has evolved a monolith with the emphasis on the power of her personality. It is she who holds together the eponymous Indira Congress, who has to spearhead every exhausting election campaign, and a test of her charisma and stamina.

This is how it was in last week's elections in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where she and her party were shattering defeated. In Andhra Pradesh, she matched her charisma against that of a fat film star who had played Hindu gods so often that many half believed he had become one - and she lost.

If, indeed, the family business is to be inherited, the legacy must be fragile. Personality cannot be handed down and the office is not, by itself, power. Even the magic of a ruling family, which counts for much can wither.

In India power must be vigorously asserted. Rajiv Gandhi does not possess his mother's political flair and single-mindedness. If he should be invested with the staff of leadership? If his grasp on the reins should fail, India could pay a price in turmoil for Mrs Gandhi's keystone system and her erosion of the institutional framework.

It would be wrong to be apocalyptic about this, for India is an ancient, resilient, unrevolutionary bulk with a strong self-steering component. Regional troubles, for example, tend to be compartmentalized and not infectious. Nevertheless, the preeminence of the leader's personality over the system carries risks, and in this respect India has been weakened.

Mrs Gandhi's suspicious nature, she once told her aunt, the distinguished Ambassador Mrs Pandit, once the High Commissioner in London, that she didn't

trust her) and pursuit of unchallengeable power have led to distortions and excesses. Her Emergency of 1975-77, a mistake and a failure, was an act of political survival; and the rise of Sanjay-ar-chamberlain and fixer revealed a flaw in her style of management. Her lack of trust in others led her to rely only on those of her blood, however unfit for power.

Sanjay was politically crude, contemptuous of political norms, but with an instinct for power and the jugular. His youth, energy and access to the core of power and patronage excited his Praetorian guard and assorted opportunists. Two and a half years after his death in a plane crash, his ruthlessness all but forgotten, he has been posthumously ennobled, hailed as "son of India", his image employed as a totem, his slogans shouted and never acted upon.

Rajiv left his Indian Airlines cockpit to take Sanjay's place, introduced as an unwilling conscript but seeing his duty, as he put it, "to help Mum". He is a modest man who used to introduce himself to



India's ruling dynasty: (top row, left to right) Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mrs Vijaya Pandit, (second row) Sanjay Gandhi, Maneka Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia, (bottom) Indira Gandhi

passengers as Commander Rajiv, not Gandhi, and people wondered how such a nice fellow would endure a trade whose seaminess he despised.

He formed his own cadre of earnest men to help him, some of them old school chums. He won his brother's parliamentary seat, Amethi, and studied power management at his mother's side. He and Sonia, the favourite daughter-in-law, their son Rahul and daughter Priyanka, live in the prime ministerial compound at No 1 Safdarjang Road, one of Delhi's broad avenues.

Like his mother, Rajiv gives morning darshan, a traditional form

of audience, in which ordinary people present petitions and grievances. Access to those in authority is important, one of the things that make India work.

Maneka, who also lived at No 1, had no love for Rajiv, thinking him politically weak, and watched his cautious advance with dismay. Death had robbed her of a husband and the limelight, and she felt cheated. The relationship with her mother-in-law grew bitter and tension in the house burst at last when she left in a blaze of publicity she staged herself. She took her infant son, Varun, on whom Mrs Gandhi dotes. He now visits his grandmother on Sundays.

Maneka, who is 26, is still a political oddity, touring the country, attacking the Congress and repeating her husband's slogans. She could become a focus for political malcontents and opportunists and perhaps become a threat to her brother-in-law. But she possesses little of political value other than the name she acquired through marriage, a fingernail grip on the

rule of the family.

Mrs Gandhi shares her father's pride in the Nehru family's place in history, as natural rulers. But she never had her father's dreams, has never been a reformer. Perhaps her survivor's instinct has told her of the dangers in trying to change things too quickly in this extraordinary land. Perhaps she feels tenure is enough.

The trademark blaze of white in her hair grows larger, and perhaps Mrs Gandhi grows more reflective for since Sanjay's death she has been more frequently to temples. But her energy and indefatigability are undiminished. Elections, especially put the giant of battle into her eye. A such times, not only her party, but also her family and her name are on trial and have to be fought for. An Indira Gandhi is nothing if not a fighter.

Trevor Fishlock

The row between the two Mrs Gandhis has started a sordid little war conducted by diatribes among their supporters. Lurid pamphlets are going the rounds, and much of the scurrility is directed at Maneka's mother, Mrs. Anand. Maneka cannot be attacked with full force: she is, after all, a member of the family, and so is her son.

Indira Gandhi recently stopped publication of a book called Son of India, a tribute to Sanjay, because it contained a vituperative attack on Maneka and her mother written by an old friend of the Nehru family. This was unseemly in such a book - but the attack was published anyway in the National Herald, the paper Nehru founded.

By now Mrs Gandhi has grown used to the often foolish actions of those who try to please her. There is around her a treacherous sycophancy, her arrivals and departures celebrated by obsequious chamshas, shoelickers, who, as more than one of her chief ministers has said, "owe everything to God and Mrs Gandhi".

Loyalty is paramount. Mrs Gandhi has talked often of India's reserves of brainpower and talent of all kinds, but her reign has been marked by her employment of many mediocre men, for whose mediocrity she herself has contempt. Afraid to allow capable men to grow, and perhaps threaten her, she has given the preference to third-rate, but loyal men. Such people have been imposed on state governments and have been notable for their inefficiency and corruption. Mrs Gandhi's deservence to her people. And the people are becoming increasingly resentful as the southern elections showed.

She has a rich guru her enemies call Rasputin

Mrs Gandhi remains as tigerish as ever, rounding on those who criticize her family, her cubs, seeing attacks on her appointees as personal. The old sensitivity remains.

She works with a small, discreet staff. What sort of influence those in her circle have can only be a matter of speculation. No one really knows, for example, the role of the rich Yoga teacher, guru, arms maker and plane owner Swami Brahmachari, a striking, bearded figure in white masha, carrying a white handbag who has been close to the family for years and is known to the Prime Minister's enemies as Rasputin.

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Court of Appeal

Time bar excluded by agreement

D/S A/S Idaho v Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co Ltd. The charterers in their points of claim had alleged, inter alia, that between April and July 1977 during the performance of the charterparty short delivered and/or damaged cargo as a result of the acts, neglect, or default of the owners and that the charterers had properly settled or compromised the claims against the owners and had incurred expenses as a result.

In the arbitration the charterers claimed from the owners either the full amount of those expenses under the inter-club agreement. However, since the arbitration was only instituted in February 1978, the charterers' claim for those expenses had been discontinued during June 1975; the charterers also claimed a declaration that their claim was not time-barred by article 3(6) of the Hague Rules which stipulated that "in any event the carrier and the ship shall be discharged from all liability in respect of loss or damage unless suit is brought within one year of the date of delivery of the goods or the date when the goods should have been delivered".

As was well known, the Hague Rules entered into an international convention which, embodied a compromise between the desire of cargo owners to subject the carriers to maximum responsibility for cargo, and the desire of cargo owners to subject the carriers to maximum responsibility for cargo.

Law Report January 10, 1983

Artificial tax avoidance scheme fails

Cairns v MacDiarmid (Inspector of Taxes). Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr, and Sir Sebag Shaw. [Judgment delivered December 17]

A tax avoidance scheme designed by a tax consultant called the "non-deposit scheme" did not achieve its object of avoiding income tax because the relevant payments were not "annual interest" under section 75(1) of the Finance Act 1972 and the payments made by the taxpayer were so artificial and so devoid of any purpose other than a fiscal purpose as to disqualify them from consideration in the context of taxation.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments dismissed an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr William Stephen Cairns, from the judgment of Mr Justice Nourse on December 16, 1981 (The Times, December 21, 1981) who dismissed the taxpayer's appeal from a determination of the special commissioners refusing his claim for tax relief in respect of a payment of £5,000 alleged to be annual interest.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused. Section 75(1) of the Finance Act 1972 provides: "Where a person pays in any year of assessment - (a) annual interest chargeable to tax under Case 111 of Schedule D... and makes a claim to relief... the amount of interest shall be deducted from or set off against his income for that year of assessment..."

Mr Anthony Sumption and Mr Richard Sowler for the taxpayer; Mr D. C. Potter, QC and Mr Peter Goldsmith for the Crown. The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the appeal concerned a tax avoidance scheme which was widely used in 1974. It was in the nature of a test case but received its quiescence in the Finance Act 1976.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Losing out

The Arts Council's disagreement over the proposed appointment of Luke Rimer, director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, to succeed Sir Roy Shaw as secretary-general has lost it the services of the man chosen to be drama director.

I've heard of spokespersons, but this is ridiculous: a sign in a north London bicycle cooperative reads "Wanted. Feminist bike."

Woman at war

While the Prime Minister assesses at first hand the effects of last year's war on the Falkland Islands, back in London two writers of a rather different persuasion are busy studying the campaign's impact on our own culture.

He tells me that one issue he hopes will come up at the ICA is the importance of the Prime Minister being a woman. "It has been crucial to her success, but I am still not fully clear why. The image of her standing at the war graves will combine the elements of a bereaved widow and a victorious war leader - a very intoxicating combination."

Oh stop worrying - it'll probably fall on Cheltenham

Not so black

The recession is bringing a shine back to stockbrokers' shoes. David McCann, until recently unemployed, tells me that his business as visiting salesman to City offices is booming.

News angle

John Kirk's landing on our shores has prompted this piece of nostalgia from John Cherry of Lightfoot, who describes himself as a North Korean - a stamp bearing a portrait of her cuddling Prince William with the inscription, "A gift. First Wedding Anniversary of the Prince and Princess of Wales."

By gum!

An unexpected tribute to the success of Wales has come from the steel authorities in rigidly communist North Korea - a stamp bearing a portrait of her cuddling Prince William with the inscription, "A gift. First Wedding Anniversary of the Prince and Princess of Wales."

I considered Robert Carr's closure of his Hunteham Hall restaurant a blow right below the belt, it having been my favourite in Britain. It is with little realisation that I reveal those who are to be closed are rarely satisfying as their looks, smells or tastes are rarely good.

The EEC must be our future

By Francis Pym

The Foreign Secretary replies to last week's Times series, Ten Years in Europe

The European Community is central to the policies of this Government, as it has been of all British governments since we entered. That is as it should be, for the Community is a western institution of fundamental importance, an essential complement to the Atlantic Alliance.

That is the perspective with which we need to approach the tenth anniversary of British accession. The celebration of anniversaries has become an obsessive modern habit and the artificiality of making assessments at periodic intervals should put us on our guard against sweeping generalities.

With only a few discreditable exceptions, comment has been thoughtful and constructive. The balance of opinion is clear: it has been a difficult decade, and there is still much to be done, but Britain's place is in Europe, and in the European Community.

The series of articles published in The Times under the title Ten Years in Europe has been particularly helpful in widening the debate, especially with so many contributions from outside commentators. There is a tendency in Britain and in the Community to react to pressure by turning in upon ourselves.

I do not want to comment on each article - but I cannot allow Peter Shore's dispiriting effort to pass unremarked. It saddens me more than I can say to see a politician billed as "Labour's chief economic

spokesman" striding backwards through the anniversary, still fighting the referendum campaign of 1975. The bitterness of years is distilled in his absurd description of the thumping 2:1 referendum majority "as clear but reluctant 'yes'".

Would that they were. The Peter Shores, who have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing, do a grave disservice to their country by raking interminably over the ashes. Our work in the Community is hampered at every turn by this dismal chorus.

And what is the point of continually asserting that European cooperation can better be achieved outside the Community when none here in Europe - or at least none else on this side of the Elbe - agrees with that view?

forgot the "British problem". For year, we have indulged ourselves and tried the patience of our friends. The job now is to build on the Community we have, and to make it work in all our interests.

First, we must increase our efforts to solve existing problems. The budget difficulties, for instance, have dogged the Community for too long. Our partners recognize that there is an imbalance, and we have negotiated some £2,000m of refunds.

And Robert Muldoon's strictures on the CAP have not fallen on deaf ears. While the principles of the agricultural policy are not in doubt, there can be no question but that it operates wastefully at present.

Second, we must impart new momentum to the development of the Community. Britain is not short of positive ideas. In a series of speeches in major European cities over the past few months government ministers have put forward ideas over a wide range of Community business.

policy, on transport policy, on ways of helping innovative industries. I am particularly concerned that we should help to regenerate the European industrial base through fuller exploitation of the opportunities of our common market.

This will be a matter of priority in the German Presidency which has just begun, and an Internal Market Council has been arranged for February 1 to carry forward such ideas.

This must be an important part of the answer to the appalling problems of unemployment which afflict all Community countries, and which rightly absorb so much of our attention, collectively and individually.

Third, we must strengthen the external role of the Ten, enabling us to act as a united and responsible force in world affairs, an effective partner of the US, and a respected contributor to international councils.

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Whitelaw should break his promise

Gerald Kaufman

The Hon Gwendolen Fairfax informed Miss Cecily Gardew "I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train."

Not having time to keep a diary, on my weekend train journey to Manchester for my constituency advice bureau I took the next most sensational reading I could think of, namely the Hanswars containing this Parliament's debates on immigration.

Even after studying these documents I was, most unfortunately in no position to provide authoritative guidance for women constituents who wanted to know what their prospects might be of being "rather husbands or fiancés here to join them from the Indian subcontinent or elsewhere."

The present Home Secretary's troubles began just under five years ago, on January 31, 1978, when Mrs Thatcher, desperate to win the 1978 North-by-election, played the racialist card by declaring on the *World in Action* television programme that Britons were afraid of being "rather swamped" by people of a different culture.

the harsh rules then current. The Tory backbenchers who brought about the Home Secretary's defeat - an unappealing collection described accurately and feelingly by one Cabinet minister as "the Thatcher wing" of the party - voted against him because they believed this single and singular election promise, among the vast number of others that had been nonchalantly broken, ought to be kept. They want to stick to the old rules.

Mr Whitelaw, however, is unable to comply with their wishes. He himself has stated categorically that the new British Nationality Act requires an improvement for husbands and fiancés and everyone knows that the European Court of Human Rights will force him to make a change if he does not do it voluntarily.

His Tory backbenchers, in addition to condemning him for going back on his party's election promises, have already made clear that they despise him for the manner in which he tried to appease them.

These MPs and their cronies want the manifesto promise and nothing but the promise. However, the great majority of Conservative MPs have twice voted, in November and again last month, to break the promise. Most Tory backbenchers will stand on their heads to oblige the Whips; but even this assemblage of aspirants to knightshoods still have some dignity left.

Robert Fisk on Mubarak's attempts to contain the fundamentalists

Egypt puts the screws on Islam's fanatics

Cairo. Shaikh Selama's mosque stands in Abbasiya Square and you cannot fail to notice two things about it. First, it interrupts the highway, physically dividing the boulevards of the airport road in such a way that it must have presented a planner's nightmare.

Then there are the rather energetic young men in long, grey *Galibees* who spend more time watching the faithful than they do at prayer. Beneath their cloaks, it is said, they carry automatic pistols, and it may well be true. The Egyptian security police like to keep an eye on Shaikh Selama's mosque.

The Shaikh, a thin-voiced prelate with a long beard, is almost 65 but cannot be found these days at his still-uncompleted mosque. He is in jail because of the "repentance and flight" Islamic fundamentalist group which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981 - recently asked him to become their leader. The Shaikh, who also built a mosque at Suez then turned it into a hospital during the 1973 war, says that he turned down the offer, an act of modesty the security police do not believe.

The Egyptian government, however, is careful not to turn him into a martyr. By a judicious mixture of moderation and ruthlessness, President Mubarak's administration is trying to undermine the Islamic fundamentalists who dispatched Mr Mubarak's predecessor, encouraging the less faithful to repent their alleged crimes but maintaining strict surveillance over those they believe are still challenging the rule of temporal law.

It is not an easy task. Thousands of pounds have been spent in launching an Islamic newspaper in Cairo, a journal which deals exclusively with Muslim law and beliefs.

In the newspaper *Gounhouria*, an "Islamic questions" column has been introduced, advising readers on the correct Muslim feminine apparel and of the stipulated periods of fasting at Ramadan. *Gounhouria*, of course, is also controlled by the authorities.

A more ambitious project is filling the screens of Egyptian state television for alleged membership of fundamentalist groups - particularly *Talife Wa Hagra* and *Jihad (Struggle)* - have been questioned about their beliefs on screen by a selection of Shaikhs and professors from the Al Azhar University in New York.



Cairo. The answers appear vague but an occasional public recantation has been obtained. A brief visit to the makeshift courtroom in the Cairo international fairground, however, is enough to persuade any Egyptian that the young fanatics who claim Sadat's death to have been a moral victory, are still coherent, organized and potentially dangerous.

Many are being held in Cairo's Tora prison and only three months ago the authorities reportedly uncovered a plan to free them. The Egyptian authorities have spent much of their time trying to discover links between the fundamentalists and Libya. They were therefore somewhat startled to hear that a member of Jihad had spent some hours at a secret meeting outside Cairo, discussing weapons training with an unidentified foreign ambassador. The government was later told that the diplomat was Iranian.

In some ways, Egypt's Islamic revivalists parallel the Iranian revolutionaries. They too have no economic philosophy with which to run the perfect Islamic state that they would want to create in the ruins of a corrupt and westernized Cairo. They would support an Ashura council of 70 men - composed of clergymen and religious politicians - who would in turn elect a president.

But the dream is that of an Islamic utopia rather than a preparation for the return of an Imam. Martyrdom is a useful expedient if the death sentence of a temporal power can end their lives but the battle of Karbala raises few emotions in Cairo.

No one knows how many Egyptians would resort to violence to defend or advance their renewed faith. The country's Christian Coptic community is conscious of the challenge which has been set them, although they are not alarmed. The government is aware that conspicuously wealthy will only provoke the anger of those who believe that Egypt's decline has been brought about by the promise of rewards on earth, specifically rewards that are made and packaged in the United States.

Without doubt, fundamentalists were tortured in the violence that followed Sadat's murder. Western correspondents in the city of Asyut, where fighting broke out immediately after the assassination, saw prisoners being beaten and cut with razors. It is equally true that the young men arrested at this period - mostly students, but including some wealthy, middle-class men - are as capable as ever of violence.

Their roots are entwined among many humiliations: the disaster of the 1967 war, the growing poverty of Egypt, the reliance of Sadat - and then of Mubarak - on American money. They see a government which lacks independence, they live among a people which has come to value material things in almost exact ratio to their scarcity; they try to inspire a population whose only entertainment comes from a television station which nightly portrays the drama of the middle classes and the romantic problems of young people whose lives are controlled and satisfactorily resolved by the size of dowries and the earning power of suits.

In response to all this, the government can either watch the fundamentalists or crush them. Sadat used them, and if Mr Mubarak finally despairs of America's role in the Middle East, he too may find that the more severely faithful of his Muslim population have their uses. For the present, they are lame, their power abated by imprisonment.

But Muhammad's followers emigrated to Ethiopia and then to Medina and the idea of emigration has developed along Egypt's fundamentalists who now "emigrate" into themselves. In a period of spiritual retreat - a state of weakness - many of them have shaved their beards. They are the ones whom the government will have to watch.

ticket (although for *Cats* it is \$45), which keeps many people away. The strong dollar has also done much to foreign visitors, who normally make up 10 per cent of Broadway audiences. Broadway currently has 23 shows - 27 more are scheduled to open by May 12 and there may yet be more. The number of new shows, therefore, should equal that of last season, if not exceed it.

How the Liberals could sink the SDP

Max Beloff

At the beginning of what many people think will be an election year, it may be a good idea to look at some of the hopes and fears reflected in the daily gossip of party politics.

On the left there are fears that the weakness of the Labour leadership and the prominence of the party's internal divisions will give the Prime Minister an unmerited victory, as they would see. On the right, there is the fear that the switching of soft Tory votes to the Alliance might allow the Labour hard core of perhaps 35 per cent of the electorate to emerge victorious, despite policies which would never command majority support.

Elsewhere we find apprehension of an indecisive result, producing a hung Parliament in which the increased complement of Ulster MPs, together with the Alliance and a few assorted nationalists, would make coherent government impossible, and lead quickly to yet another general election which neither the parties nor the nation could afford.

The Alliance leaders profess to see things differently. Having abandoned any hope of securing a majority themselves, they are relying publicly on using such a "hung" Parliament to bargain with one or other of the main parties to enact proportional representation. Privately they must be aware that this prospect is a political mirage, useful for garnering votes, but bearing little relation to reality.

The Alliance itself is based on the false notion that the two-party system is an adventitious element of the British political system, and can easily be made to give way to a three-party system with a "centrist party" in the middle. The Alliance activists make no attempt to conceal the fact that having won over the Labour Party, they feel they are close to success in the Liberal Party also. On the other hand, for obvious reasons, the SDP is more resistant to the siren voices from the Kremlin that reach us by way of Greenham Common.

Whatever Mr Steel's personal views may be, there is really no question but that in a hung Parliament he will once again find a Lib-Lab pact the only solution he can sell to his followers. And in that case, the Alliance as such will be dead. What will then happen to its members or to the more patriotic and hard-headed members of the Labour Party itself is a subject for speculation.

bring Britain through its crises without splits too dangerous to be tolerable within a parliamentary system. The problem may be that some peculiarities of the present situation of the parties suggest that there are almost as many difficulties in this model as present-day circumstances as there are in the idea of the Alliance playing a constructive role in the next Parliament.

For this there are two reasons. The first, which has been with us for a long time, is that one of the two major parties is indissolubly connected with the trade union movement. And this is clearly reflected in the regional distribution of party support as revealed by the polls. It is because of its failure to break into the trade union world that the SDP has so bleak a future - irrespective of whether its leading figures regard themselves as centrists or neo-socialists. Very few of its present MPs can hope to be in the next House of Commons, and whatever the size of the Alliance contingent, it is clear that a large majority of them will be Liberals.

The second reason is that the likelihood that defence policy will be a major electoral theme is particularly ominous for the Alliance. CND activists make no attempt to conceal the fact that having won over the Labour Party, they feel they are close to success in the Liberal Party also. On the other hand, for obvious reasons, the SDP is more resistant to the siren voices from the Kremlin that reach us by way of Greenham Common.

Whatever Mr Steel's personal views may be, there is really no question but that in a hung Parliament he will once again find a Lib-Lab pact the only solution he can sell to his followers. And in that case, the Alliance as such will be dead. What will then happen to its members or to the more patriotic and hard-headed members of the Labour Party itself is a subject for speculation.

It is possible to imagine many developments which might alter this picture. The Labour Party might contrive to put its weight and that of the trade union movement behind an alternative economic policy sufficiently attractive to win over voters sufficiently concerned about the appalling level of unemployment. Other domestic issues may emerge. But as of the beginning of 1983, a two-party contest of the traditional kind seems to be emerging from behind the smokescreen of multi-party chatter.

Despite attempts to brand the Conservative Party as extremist or most issues closer to the national consensus than its opponents, it is the Labour Party's present mood that is the obstacle to the kind of underlying unity of purpose that has made the two-party system so fruitful in the past. Lord Beloff is vice-chairman of the Advisory Board to the Conservative Research Department.

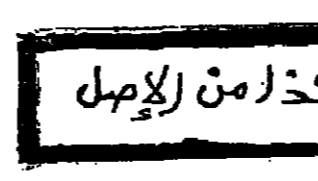
Broadway: the shows that can't go on

\$150,000 (about £94,000) a year to maintain an empty Broadway theatre. Nine highly profitable, long-running shows closed in 1982, including *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, *Death Trap* and most recently to close, *Annie*.

closed at a time when we have very few other hits." Hits are what Broadway is all about and the only new blockbuster is *Cats*. The forgotten names of last season's failures are still found fading on occasional billboards: names like *The First*, (which lost \$3m), *Little Me* (\$2m) and *Merrily We Roll Along* (\$1.8m).

But some say that ten of more current Broadway productions are on the point of closure and it is a sad fact that of seven musicals launched this season only *Cats* has survived. "Sure, it's not good," Mr Sabinson said. "We would do a lot better if we had some really credible critics. We haven't had one since 1922."

Christopher Thomas







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LADY OF THE ISLES

There is nothing like seeing for oneself. Mrs Thatcher's surprise arrival in the Falklands...

Port Stanley, Tumbledown, Darwin, the modest island economy, the hopes and fears of a small agrarian community...

When Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, visited London last month...

subject were to become negotiable. It was precisely because of that middle in the past that the Argentines felt emboldened...

The blandness of Mr Shultz's diplomatic approach may find this hard to comprehend. He is particularly in search of a South Atlantic strategic grouping...

The myth of their Malvinas is neither the cause of the Argentine crisis, nor would it be the cure. And the identity of the hostile stranger, so necessary for this collective condition...

However, there is more at stake in the South Atlantic than the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. Britain's dependencies are scattered more widely...

an absence of bellicosity there is obviously much of mutual advantage that can be arranged. In the meantime Mrs Thatcher will find that "pressing the flesh" among the Falklanders...

There appears to be little concern when idealistic criminals claiming to represent the Animal Liberation Front, break in and steal in an attempt to prevent research...

Let there be no misunderstanding, the eradication of smallpox, the control of poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tuberculosis, the ability to cure most dangerous common infections...

When the Falklands bush telegraph broadcast the news that "The Prime Minister is here" there was only one Prime Minister it could be. That is the meaning of Mrs Thatcher to the Falklanders...

SLOW ROAD OUT OF LEBANON

There was talk yesterday in Jerusalem of a possible "breakthrough" in the negotiations between Israel, Lebanon and the United States...

Khalde itself, on the southern outskirts of Beirut, is still under Israeli occupation. So are the mountains of the Chouf which overlook it...

A seemingly parallel situation prevails in the north, under Syrian occupation. There the city of Tripoli has been racked for seven weeks by fighting between the Alawite immigrant minority...

(co-religionist of Syria's President Hafiz al-Assad) and the Sunni majority. The parallel is not complete, however. In the Chouf Israel's presence has exacerbated native Lebanese tensions...

Tripoli is caught-up in two separate quarrels concerning President Assad's regime. One is the battle with the Sunni majority in Syria, led by the Muslim Brotherhood. The other opposes Mr Assad to Mr Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization...

Thus Tripoli at least could be at peace if only the non-Lebanese forces - Syrian and Palestinian - were withdrawn from it. Both have indicated their willingness to withdraw if requested to do so by the Lebanese government...

the Palestinians should leave first, and then themselves and the Syrians by simultaneous stages, agreed in advance. It seems to be generally assumed that a compromise on timing can be worked out...

But here too Lebanon is in something of a cleft stick. As the price of withdrawal Israel wants to establish normal peaceful relations with Lebanon in such areas as tourism and commerce. Moreover it wants to ensure its own security by maintaining Israeli military observation posts in Lebanese territory...

Israel has many times proclaimed her anxiety to restore effective Lebanese sovereignty. She now has the chance to do that by agreeing to withdraw quickly subject to simultaneous withdrawal by Syria and the PLO...

LOOKING FOR RECRUITS

Now that police authorities are at last showing more enthusiasm for black recruits, lack of motive in those communities is the main reason for the perilously small proportion of black men and women coming forward...

Of those of Asian, African or West Indian descent who do apply, or would like to apply, to join the police many do not meet the educational standards that are set. Some do not meet those standards because they have not done themselves justice at school...

standards. Some police authorities are already trying that. The Metropolitan Police have introduced special training for "near misses" in the entry test so that they may later pass. The scheme has not so far been a success...

Three considerations govern an initiative of that kind. The first is the need for more black policemen, to make forces more representative of the communities in which they keep the peace...

standards of recruitment in the attempt to bring about a better balance that would risk general damage to the efficiency of the police and invite the public labelling of black officers as inferior policemen. The third is the danger implicit in an overt discrimination in favour of blacks of provoking resentment among whites who see individuals or collectively that they are being discriminated against...

The scale and shape of the Derbyshire scheme ought to save it from that sort of resentment except at the worst extremes of racial prejudice. Racial quotas adopted as a matter of policy for the purpose of minority advancement are understandably suspect...

Use of animals in the laboratory

From Professor R. Y. Calne, FRS. The public is remarkably ambivalent towards the treatment of animals. Most of us love animals but eat meat, wear leather and are happy to benefit from medical advances...

There appears to be little concern when idealistic criminals claiming to represent the Animal Liberation Front, break in and steal in an attempt to prevent research...

Let there be no misunderstanding, the eradication of smallpox, the control of poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tuberculosis, the ability to cure most dangerous common infections...

When the Falklands bush telegraph broadcast the news that "The Prime Minister is here" there was only one Prime Minister it could be. That is the meaning of Mrs Thatcher to the Falklanders...

Lesson of employment comparison

From Sir Richard O'Brien. The waste of resources involved in high unemployment, let alone the moral questions involved, demands that we consider afresh how to run the economy at a higher level of activity...

We, too, made efforts during the 1960s and 1970s to set up institutions and consultations which would promote such cooperation and understanding. It is now too often forgotten that during this time we began to arrest Britain's far-from-inevitable economic decline...

Table with 3 columns: Country, 1955-64, 1964-69, 1969-73. Rows: UK, EEC, Luxembourg.

At the same time the stage was being set for a growth in exports. For those of us who were involved in negotiations with Government in the early 1970s, this period seems in retrospect to be a tragedy of lost opportunities...

progress in medicine is not desired - an unlikely supposition in a civilized society - then suppression of animal experiments should be brought about by democratic processes of Parliament...

Yours faithfully, R. Y. CALNE, University of Cambridge Clinical School.

Political design in university cuts

From Professor E. A. Barnard, FRS. Sir, Your columnist, Roger Scruton, writes (January 4), along with much else in the same vein. A person who knows only engineering or microbiology finds himself hampered by his knowledge, which casts little light on his experience...

Microbiology, for example, like any other study in depth of the living world, can certainly lead the enquirer to an appreciation of the intrinsic beauty, logic, hidden order and pattern of meaning and challenge of a pure intellect, no less so than the humanities which Dr Scruton champions...

By denigrating one large part of the scientific, he sows confusion in a camp which at this time needs to be united. All of us there need to defend those humanities in the widest sense. I raise education against the current political attack on them which the article identifies. I believe correctly.

Our present Government is - in its eternal shame - leading the way in the western world in this attack. The punitive cutbacks inflicted on our universities were not dictated, and many other academics believe by any real prospect of financial gain. In economic terms they were a loss. Britain more than it would gain as has been well illustrated by earlier correspondents in these columns...

need for relative disarmament and to the dangers of proliferation. The British case, however, is different from that of the superpowers. To judge British retention of nuclear weapons within an already over-armed alliance we surely need to reckon not only the military dangers of existing policies but also the cost of nuclear uncertainty on the psychology of our people...

Yours faithfully, JAMES O'CONNELL, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire, January 6.

From Mr Gordon Bromley. Sir, It is generally agreed that one of the chief barriers to all-round arms reduction is Russian fear of aggression by the Western Powers. Though unjustified today, such fear, in the light of history, is easily understandable. What can be done to dispel it?

One thing we can do is to demonstrate in every way possible - especially in broadcas to Eastern block countries, but also here at home - that absolutely no one in the West wants an anti-Soviet war. The demonstrations here, news of which would trickle through to the Russians, should not be left to the CND since, unfortunately, that body has become confused with unilateralism, a policy that has the backing of only a small minority...

Such a campaign, to which lunatics alone could be opposed, would not of course work miracles; but if it helped dispel only a little of the Russian fear would surely be worth the effort, especially at a time like this, when Mr Andropov appears to wish for a clearer understanding with the West.

Yours truly, GORDON BROMLEY, 31 Wilford Way, NW11, January 5.

Control of foxes

From the Chairman of the Masters of Foxhounds Association. Sir, May I refer to the article on hunting by Richard North in your paper on January 4? As it is headed "in pursuit of the facts" it is important to get the fact that it is necessary to cull foxes correct. The reason that the fox population remains more or less constant, with local fluctuations, is that their numbers are controlled by man in his various capacities...

Most of these hunts attain this objective and the foxes are not in the main then subjected to the alternative methods of control which, as Mr North indicates, involve more suffering and which incidentally occur in regions where hunting is impossible. Foxes do not perish in large numbers from natural causes, as is implied, and indeed often survive to a ripe age. Hunting does not seek to exterminate, or indeed decimate, the local foxes but to control them and disperse them to the broad satisfaction of rural communities...

There are many other good reasons for hunting to continue, not least that the great majority of farmers and landowners welcome it, contrary to what the article suggests. The suggestion that foxes and other hunted quarry very seldom need culling is not true, nor would it be good for the species; without hunting there would be many less foxes, deer or hares permitted to be left unmolested in their breeding seasons.

Yours faithfully, R. E. WALLACE, (Chairman, Masters of Foxhounds Association), Parsloes Cottage, Bagendon, Cirencester, Gloucester, January 7.

A bar to comparison

From Dr Malcolm Weller. Sir, The inflation rate of Cadbury's chocolate bars does not compare so "outstandingly well with postage inflation" between 1914 and the present as asserted by Mr Dominic Cadbury (January 4) when one considers that diverse hydrogenated fats are now used as substitutes for the traditional, and more expensive, cocoa butter. It is arguable that the stuff is not chocolate at all.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM WELLER, 30 Arkwright Road, Hampstead, NW3, January 4.

Politic significance?

From Mr Alan Shelley. Sir, Yesterday evening I saw a nondescript saloon car of indeterminate colour in the Beaconsfield area. The registration plate letters were "SDP" followed, after the number, by the suffix "7". No answer was apparent. The car in question was a left-hand drive model. Is this significant?

Yours faithfully, ALAN SHELLEY, White Cottage, Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire.

Nuclear debate

From Professor James O'Connell. Sir, The argument has constantly been introduced - and again by Professor Pick (January 3) - that nuclear weapons have been a factor in keeping the peace in Europe for the last thirty years. It seems worthwhile to look at this argument in perspective.

To begin with, it seems reasonable to allow that such weapons, with their destructive power, may have contributed to restraining the countries of the two great alliances in Europe from attacking one another. It takes greater provocation to go to war in the face of utterly destructive retaliation. Yet it is also the case that countries such as Britain and Germany, which a generation ago tried to devastate one another, have not only managed to avoid sources of conflict but have found good reasons for all sorts of co-operation.

Peace was consolidated as countries discovered that their interests converged. A perceived external military threat may have helped in forming the Western military alliance. But those historical factors that went into the making of the Common Market (as those that went into the unification of Germany in the nineteenth century) have been deeper and more pervasive than military considerations.

In other words, if nuclear weapons have been a factor in keeping the peace, it is also the case that many other, and in Western Europe at least, more powerful factors have been at work.

It is, furthermore, in many respects misleading to refer to the present period as a period of peace only. It is as well a period of continuing preparation for war. Technology has dispensed with popular mobilisation for war, but it leaves war a possible 15 minutes away at any time. Under circumstances of permanent armed mobilisation and possibly imminent war countries live in relentless insecurity.

For such reasons, before we attribute an excessive role to nuclear weapons in keeping the peace, we must ponder the dangers that they involve. In this context I am not arguing that the United States and the Soviet Union should, or could, be prevailed on in the near future to discard all their nuclear weapons. They should, however, be more sensitive than either has been to the

M40 inquiry

From Lady Elton. Sir, The Department of Transport is clearly as insensitive as ever. When the M5 slashed an extravagant diagonal through the Gordano Valley and across the north Somerset levels within a few hundred yards of Clevedon Court no mention was made of a "low background drone" (report, December 15).

This must be a euphemism for incessant foreground roar, augmented by the squeal of lorry tyres on the wet carriageway and the flapping of the plastic sheets which protect road-borne cargoes of cakes and ale and consumer durables.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET ANN ELTON, Clevedon Court, Somerset.

The Tory tradition

From Councillor Trevor Russel. Sir, Your excellent editorial "Tories thirty years on" (January 5) should finally demolish the new Conservative right's always-dubious claim to somehow be the heirs to the 1952 Tory mantle. To those of us who have drawn our Conservatism from "Rab" Butler, the suggestion has always seemed preposterous.

However, you could have gone further and pointed out that the Eden, Macmillan, Home and Heath administrations were equally dissimilar to Mrs Thatcher's in tone, approach, philosophy and policies. In other words, the new Conservatism would be alien to every post-war Tory government.

It will be interesting to see how the historians of 2012 evaluate the present administration's domestic record, especially against its Tory predecessors' performance. One suspects the judgement will be harsh - and rightly so.

Yours faithfully, TREVOR RUSSEL, 34 Colburn Way, Sutton, Surrey, January 5.

Deus et machina

From Mr John Rabson. Sir, "Evangelicals split too" (report, January 3). Ecclesiastical Luddites? Yours faithfully, JOHN RABSON, Limes Farm House, Eyeke, Suffolk, January 3.

Telegram delays

From Sir Rudolf Peierls, FRS. Sir, When cost-cutting is combined with lack of imagination the result can be deplorable. After abolishing the domestic telegram service British Telecom are letting international service slip to point of complete uselessness.

The telegram addressed to me in Oxford was sent from the United States about noon (our time) December 31. It went to London not shown, but it was early enough to be postmarked at 15.30 that day. It reached me by mail on January 1 one day before the confirmed copy mailed from America. The message gave a phone number and "unless telegrams would be delivered in their purpose if fulfilled the same day". In my judgment? In that case the delay, in fact, causes considerable difficulty.

The letter also indicated "hand-delivery of telegrams was never cease completely, but it is nevertheless that customers continue to use the international telegram service because, lacking in speed, it still had 'style'". If this is the best service of which they are capable, British Telecom should refuse to accept fees for telegrams not including a "pl" number, or warn senders about delays, to avoid being guilty of pretences.

Yours faithfully, RUDOLF PEIERLS, 2b Northmoor Road, Oxford, January 6.

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COURT CIRCULAR

ANDRINHAM - January 9: Divine Service was held at Sandringham Church this morning. The Rev. J. R. W. Stott preached the sermon. Mr Charles Candy had the choir of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty decorated him with the Royal Victorian Medal (Gold).

Birthdays today

Mr Commodore Sir Vernon Brown, 94; Mr Justin Evans, 90; Mr A. A. Old, 66; Mr Sidney G. Baker, 65; Mr Derek Hammond-Stroud, 54; Sir Robert Marshall, 63; Mr Roy Moore, 75; Sir Gerald Reece, 86; Mr and Mrs Stewart, 38.

Orthcoming marriages

Mr Bruce Dundas and Miss S. C. Lascelles. The engagement is announced between Bruce, son of the Marquess of Marchmont, and Miss Lascelles, daughter of the Marquess of Marchmont, of London, SW4.

Marriages

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Giles, Ashdown, Surrey, between the Hon William Chubb, eldest son of Lord and Lady Hayter, of Ashdown House, Ashdown, Surrey, and Miss Waltraud Flack, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Flack, of Sydney, Australia.

Church news

Church leaders from the Soviet Union are to begin an 11-day visit to Britain and Ireland today at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

'Denationalizing' church poses new problems

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England, which sometimes casts nervous glances in the direction of the English Roman Catholic Church, will be reassured to know that that body makes no claim to be the alternative national church.

The structure now proposed for demolition consists of a series of national commissions, one for each area of operation, whose membership would be a mixture of bishops, lay and clerical experts, and allegedly representative lay people.

The Roman Catholic Church's presence in England and Wales, and the structural problems it is having to face, are still overshadowed by 1850, even if those presuppositions are no longer regarded as true.

OBITUARY

MISS EDITH COATES

Noted operatic mezzo-soprano

Miss Edith Coates, OBE, who died at her home in Worthing on January 7 at the age of 74 had been well known in this country as an operatic mezzo-soprano during a career which lasted well over 70 years.

From a stage debut as a fairy in Shakespeare at the Old Vic she went on to sing at Sadler's Wells and later with the Covent Garden company, and in the light of dramatic mezzo-soprano, her acting sense and stagecraft always made her a valued member of any cast.

Edith Coates was born at Lincoln on May 31, 1908 and studied at Trinity College of Music, London and with Clive Carey and Dino Borgelli. From stage parts at the Old Vic she made her operatic debut with the Vic-Wells company as Giovanna in Rigoletto and continued to sing small roles such as Siebel (Faust) and Frédéric (Mignon) until invited to sing Carmen in the 1931 season at Sadler's Wells; it was to become her most notable role.

Miss Coates became the company's leading mezzo-soprano and sang Lehl in the first English-language performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's The Snow Maiden (1933) and Eboli in the English-language Don Carlos (1938) among many other roles.

In 1945 she created the role of Auntie in Peter Grimes at Sadler's Wells, then was invited to be a member of the new resident company at Covent Garden in 1974, where she repeated her Carmen, and sang Azucena, Amneris, Ortrud, Fricka, and perhaps most memorably, the part of the Old Countess in The Queen of Spades, in which her acting and singing made an indelible impression. She also created roles in Bliss's The Olympians (1949) and Britten's Gloriana (1953).

She continued to make occasional appearances in small but significant parts throughout the 1960s in various British houses: as late as 1966 she created Gloriana in Grace Williams's The Parlova with the Welsh National Opera. She was married to the singer and producer Powell Lloyd, and was appointed OBE in 1977. She had a commanding stage presence and an imposing if not invariably steady voice.

MR ALBERT BARNES

Mr Albert Barnes, who died on December 19 was the editor of the children's comic paper, The Dandy, from its inception in 1937 until last year, and the creator of one of its original and most enduring features, Desperate Dan.

Under Barnes The Dandy remained curiously unchanging. Not for it - nor for the Beano which joined the stable - were the sensitivity to the new interests and awareness of post-war children which changed the faces of other comics, in many cases administering a coup de grace. Sex, religion and politics never found a foothold in its pages. True, television gradually eliminated much of the written matter, stories with pages of words were a feature of the pre-war Dandy and occupied almost half the comic. But for all that its schoolmasters continued to wear mortar boards, policemen still seemed to be "bobbies" rather than "the fuzz" and children's hoodlumism still found its consummation in such antique pieces of adult disfigurement as slipping on a banana skin, and its retribution in the equally time honoured and fragrantly mythical parental slipper.

Barnes was to blame television for the decline of the children's comic market from its heyday and it seems unlikely that the circulation of any children's paper will ever equal The Dandy under his stewardship. He retired from the editorship in April last year after 45 years in the chair.



The King George V, among the basiest of Britain's surviving steam locomotives since it was saved from the scrapyard by Bulmers, the cider makers, under the night lights at the British Rail engineering works at Swindon, where it is undergoing a refit. (Photograph: Richard Wintle).

Girls' Public Day School Trust

Spring Term for the 34 schools of the Girls' Public Day School Trust will begin this week. Half-term will be in the week of February 21. Mrs C. Jane Filz will be taking up her appointment as Headmistress of Notting Hill and Ealing High School.

Royal Grammar School, Guildford

Lent Term begins today and ends on March 25. There are 710 boys in the senior school and 285 at Lanesborough. The junior play, Oliver Twist, will be presented on March 9, 10 and 11. The choral society will perform The Pirates of Penzance on March 17, 18 and 19. The Cambridge dinner will be at Jesus Church on February 19 and the Old Guildfordians' AGM and dinner will be on March 25 at the school.

St Felix School, Southwold

Spring Term begins today with 430 girls. Samantha Kembell and Catherine Morley-Jacob are joint heads of school. Interviews and auditions for academic and music scholarships will be held from February 8 to 11. The drama competition will take place on March 20 and term ends on March 25.

Appointments in the Forces

ROYAL NAVY CAPTAIN: P H Wright to Sup Naval Offr Portsmouth, Feb 28. SSJ D F Ainslie to Sup Naval Offr Portsmouth as CSD Plans and Resources, Jan 28. SSJ G J Harvey to MDDPES, Feb 4. SSJ A Berven to Staff of CMB, Feb 4. SSJ D R Whitcher to Staff of CMB, Feb 4. ROYAL MARINES COLONEL: K N Widdie to ADC to HQ The Queen, Feb 28. SSJ D F Ainslie to ADC to HM The Queen, April 16. SSJ D F Ainslie to ADC to HM The Queen, April 16. SSJ D F Ainslie to ADC to HM The Queen, April 16. SSJ D F Ainslie to ADC to HM The Queen, April 16.

Moira House School Eastbourne

Easter Term begins today with 310 girls in the school. Long leave will be from February 10 to 13 and term ends on March 18. The 1st XI and U16 XI hockey teams play all Sussex Champions in the Southern Counties Tournament in Middlesex on February 5, and Ingham Scholarship Day is Saturday, February 19.

Malvern College

Lent Term at Malvern College begins today. Mr R. C. Chapman took up his appointment as headmaster on January 1. G. C. G. Neville is senior chapel prefect and J. A. Viner is junior chapel prefect. The half-term exam is from February 12 to 15. Lanthorn, a joint production with Ellerslie School, will take place on February 24, 25 and 26. The scholarship examination will be held from March 7 to 9 and entries must reach the school by February 14. Term ends on March 19.

Kelly College

Easter Term begins today. An appeal for new buildings has begun and has so far raised £20,000 towards a total of £30,000. A new boarding house for sixth-form girls is nearing completion and other developments are taking place. Benjamin Britten's Let's make an Opera will be performed on January 21 and 22. There will be a production of Romeo and Juliet on March 16, 17 and 18, and a performance of Bach's B minor Mass on March 19.

Oratory School

Lent Term begins today. The school captain is S. G. W. Jones. Captain of soccer is T. J. H. Cooke. Half-term will be from February 16 to 20. Confirmation by the Archbishop of Birmingham will be on March 12. The school play will be performed on March 25 and 26. Term ends on March 28. Mr R. J. Hutchings, who has been appointed Headmaster of Cotton College, is succeeded as Housemaster of FitzAlan by Mr K. Gregory.

Wellingborough School

Lent Term begins today and ends on Saturday, March 26. Confirmation is on Sunday, March 6, in chapel; Sheridan's School for Scandal will be performed on March 17, 18 and 19, and the London OW dinner is on Thursday, March 17.

Dover College

Term begins today at both college and junior school. The Old Doverian hockey match will be on February 13. Confirmation, administered by the Bishop of Dover, takes place on February 20. The school play, Macbeth, will be produced by Mr Michael James in the refectory from March 9 to 12. There is a half-term. Term ends on March 19.

University news

Newcastle Grants: Grants of £20,000 each to the University of Newcastle and £10,000 to the University of Durham for research into the effects of acid rain on the environment. Cambridge awards, page 18

Dinner

Medical Officers of Schools Association: The Medical Officers of Schools Association held its annual dinner at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, on Saturday, Dr T. W. Hoskins, president of the association, was in the chair and Dr A. W. Frazer, also speaker. Dr M. Sarnet, Sub-Dan for Postgraduate Studies, University College London School of Medicine, was also present.

Party

Lady Mayors: Lord Mayor and Lady Mayors entertained children connected with the City and London Boroughs at a Christmas party held at the Mansion House on Saturday.

The Leys

Lent Term at The Leys begins today. The senior prefect is A. M. G. Arnold and the captain of hockey A. W. T. Yap. The half-term exam is from February 18 to 22. The joint Methodist-Anglican Confirmation service will be held on March 23 and term ends on March 24.

Moreover... Miles Kington

"Good morning, Kent," said Lois Lang. "Hello, Lois," said Kent, humbly. Kent Kirk was a humble Euro-MP who worked humbly at the headquarters of the mighty EEC, the organization dedicated to bringing peace forever to Europe, and to keeping New Zealand butter out. He tended to do most things humbly, partly because he was a mousy sort of fellow, partly because he was only a Danish Euro-MP, and however nice the Danes were to everybody they just didn't have the kind of GNP to let them boss people around. He was especially humble with Lois Lang. Although only a Euro-secretary, she was the most beautiful person he had ever met. But what chance had he against Sir Geoffrey Fitchie, the Euro-Tory she was in love with?

Party

Lady Mayors: Lord Mayor and Lady Mayors entertained children connected with the City and London Boroughs at a Christmas party held at the Mansion House on Saturday. Cambridge awards, page 18

Party

Lady Mayors: Lord Mayor and Lady Mayors entertained children connected with the City and London Boroughs at a Christmas party held at the Mansion House on Saturday.

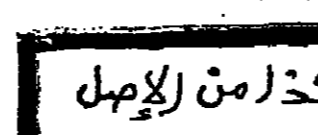
PROF R. G. HARRISON

Professor R. G. Harrison, Derby Professor of Anatomy in the University of Liverpool, died on December 31. He was 61. Ronald George Harrison was born on April 5, 1921, at Ulverston, Lancashire, and, after studying at the Royal Grammar School, was awarded a Demystip at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1938. He entered Magdalen in 1939 with a Lancashire County Major Scholarship and a Lord Kitchener National Memorial Scholarship, and in 1940 became Exhibitioner of his College. After obtaining his B.M., B.Ch., degrees in 1944 he was appointed Demonstrator and Lecturer in Human Anatomy at Oxford, combining this with Lecturer in Anatomy at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. He became Derby Professor of Anatomy at Liverpool in 1950, and was one of the youngest members of the Senate ever to be appointed.

Harrison was a man with a great variety of interests, ranging from anatomy and embryology on the one hand to art and egyptology on the other. In 1972 he was Visiting Professor of Egyptology at Cairo University and his television films - "Tutankhamun Post-mortem", 1969, and "Tutankhamun King", 1973 - introduced him to a wide public. The publicity engendered by his exhumation of the mummified Tutankhamun should not, however, obscure his more solid achievements. He took over, as a very young man, a Department of Anatomy where teaching was predominant, and galvanized it into one in which a balance between teaching and research developed. Young men and women were encouraged to pursue these two complementary strands necessary for the fulfilment of a university department. This transformation, as well as the development of embryology, was his real contribution to the university and to the science of anatomy.

DR ROBERT WELTSCH

Dr Robert Weltsch, who died on December 23 in Jerusalem, was the London correspondent of the liberal Hebrew daily Ha'aretz for over thirty years. An officer in the Austrian Army in the First World War, he wore British uniform as an official reporter at the Nuremberg Trials after the Second World War. A typical product of the Habsburg Empire (the break-up of which he ironically continued to lament), he was born in Prague where he studied law and obtained his doctorate in 1914. He was a journalist of the old school, learned and scholarly, and worked in Vienna and in Berlin, where he became editor-in-chief of the Zionist Jewish daily Ha'aretz, campaigning for Jewish rights under Nazi rule until the paper was banned in 1938. He stood for a humanistic, liberal Zionism, and for Arab-Jewish understanding. In 1953 he founded together with Martin Buber and others the Leo Baeck Institute for the study of the history of Central European Jewry, and was the chairman until his retirement in 1978. Prolific author and journalist, as he was, his shrewd articles on current affairs were still appearing in the international press up to a few weeks before his death.



THE ARTS

Michael Ratcliffe finds Berlin in a turmoil of self-discovery Tracking down a city's emotions

Berlin is built upon sand, a fact not unnoticed by poets and historians which has led to a passion for transience and a narcissism bordering that of Manhattan.

In a city which devotes a permanent museum to the history of the visiting card, almost anything may be explored in terms of an exhibition, and an exhibition means a movie, a record and if necessary, a campaign.

This is much more than a matter of vandalized stations and rolling stock 50 years old. After the Wall itself, the S-Bahn is the most evident symbol of division for it belongs, like the uncontrolled pollution from the East and the hourly weather forecast, to the whole of Berlin.

A large, slightly scruffy but immensely likeable exhibition - Die Berliner S-Bahn - runs at the

Kunsterhaus Bethanien in Kreuzberg until the middle of the week (the superb and far from scruffy catalogue, in which the forthcoming Museum of Transport and Technology has had a hand, costs DM32) and a 75-minute film by Alfred Behrens - Berliner Stadtbahnbilder - recently played at the small Steglitz cinema near the Zoo.

Behrens subtitles his film "Description of an abandoned industrial landscape", but the effect is of elegy rather than description as a highly selective sequence of sights and sounds evokes old journeys undertaken and vital appointments kept.

Nostalgia as committed as this expresses only the worst of today and tomorrow, and the end of the world is indeed sniffed even more ominously than usual in the Berlin air.



Nikolassee: the local S-Bahn station as a hunting lodge; and second-class travel in 1938 when the S-Bahn was recommended "for work and leisure"

reason for visiting Berlin at this particular season; it has one more week to run.

Until the opening of the Schaubühne's extraordinary Hamlet, on which I hope to write in a second article, neither theatre nor opera aspired to compete. Unlike the RSC, the Schaubühne failed to make a case for Ostrovsky's Forest; the Schiller drew poor notices for Caryl Churchill's Cloud Nine and fell on its face with a glum and ill-performed modernization of Klingens rare, original Sturm und Drang (1776).

News of the Deutsche Oper in West Berlin reaches the outside world on spectacular occasions only - a terrific Macbeth, a notorious Merry Widow, a Frau ohne Schatten with Nilsson, Rysanek and Fischer-Dieskau, and now, as reported on this page last week, with a smash-hit Fanciulla del West. In between, the international casting is drab by the expectations of London, Paris, San Francisco or New York, and the quality of repertory revival and dramatic imagination far below that enjoyed in Cardiff and St Martin's Lane. Nobody ever believes this who

has not spent a few weeks in the city, but it is true.

The opera company's greatest cross is its building, which came of age this year, fills a whole block, and takes five minutes to walk round. A mournful attempt to combine the reviving metropolitan assumptions of the late 1950s with the moral austerity of the Bauhaus, the auditorium is enormous, elephant grey and walnut brown, a terrible great hole for a singer to fill. That, above all, a small house was required is clear from the current revivals of Wildschütz, Hansel und Gretel and Gluck's Orfeo.

New this year and inflated to fill the house, the latter was so under-rehearsed for its first revival with a new cast that, when the scenery actually started to fall apart and roll towards the orchestra, the curtain was brought down.

The Deutsche Oper receives DM60m - more than £12m - a year, and although this sum also supports a full-scale classical dance company, it is hard not to feel that Berlin has got better value for the £1.2m recently spent on a large and rather stunning Gainsborough from Paris: The Marchioness Children (1787) has now joined the (to my taste, even finer) late portrait of Mrs Robert

Hingeston and a delicious new Raeburn - Mrs Anne Hart (1810) - in the English room at Dahlem.

As to the Berlin ballet, it is pitifully underused and could hardly be judged from its showing at the premiere of Tururguri, a near-danceless extravaganza by Moses Pendleton after Mexican folk-rites and a poem by Antonin Artaud; the glorious opportunities offered and taken by the dancers of the Hamburg State Opera Ballet in John Neumeier's Matthew Passion, which visited Berlin in November, made a melancholy contrast. What a company!

Wildschütz, Hansel und Orfeo would each have sounded better in the more intimate historic houses of the East: the beautiful Staatsoper on Unter den Linden, and the Komische Oper, formerly saucy Metropole, a few blocks away, both designed to encourage and generate pleasure in every line and curve. The Staatsoper even succeeded in giving pleasure in Friedrich Cerha's Baal, a co-production with the Vienna State Opera given at Salzburg last year and therefore unusually well run in by the time it reached Berlin.

breathed musical idiom has gone into Baal. Otto Schenk's meticulous production (decor, Rolf Langenfass) was reproduced by Helga Schlusche and succeeded, as Cerha himself has done, in both refining and focusing the poetry of Brecht's blowy original. Theo Adam carried off the central role in firm voice and without embarrassment, and Magdalena Falewicz (Sophie) has lost none of the lyric pathos memorable in her Butterfly for Welsh National Opera.

That outstanding Butterfly began life at the Komische Oper, where it remains in the repertory, and there is something about East German surrealism, which tangles with Verdi at his and its peril, that suits verismo marvellously well and seems to give Puccini, in particular, the courage of his convictions. I remember an heroic and very funny Gianni Schicchi ten years ago, and the big success this season, attracting the curious through Checkpoint Charlie, is Harry Kupfer's new staging of Bohème. Except for a Mimi of eloquence, dignity and strength (Roberta Alexander) I thought it poorly sung by the second cast, but dramatically as sharp as a steel engraving of the pitiless urban world in which Murger's bohemians pursued their vie charmante, vie terrible.

Television Dramatic drift

It may have been the fact that the interview had to be conducted in French that persuaded The South Bank Show (London Weekend) to think of interspersing the dramatizations of some of the events in Simone de Beauvoir's life. If it seemed a bright idea at the time, it was not in the event.

Yesterday was her seventy-fifth birthday and it was this that led her to agree to the interview with Melvyn Bragg. She told us of her childhood (happy) and adolescence (sad), of her rebellion against religion and the petit bourgeoisie, her meeting with Sartre at the Sorbonne when both studied. He came out top to her second. Their relationship, she said, rested on the principle that each would always be the most important person for the other. This did not mean that they could not, did not, have affairs - "continent loves", she called them - but the principle, a kind of fidelity, had lasted to the end.

It was all good interesting stuff with Anna Massey providing the English voice, but those dramatizations got in the way. She told Mr Bragg that in the Thirties, neither she nor Sartre had got involved in politics. Considering the events of this period, I thought this remarkable and waited for Mr Bragg to ask why. He did not. It was lost on the cutting room floor.

She was allowed to be forthcoming on post-war France, the emergence of Sartre as a leader of the left wing, the establishment of Les Temps modernes - this broke off for a somewhat pointless dramatization - and the effects of the Indo-Chinese and Algerian campaigns and the 1968 student troubles. Now things were more dangerous than ever because of nuclear weapons. It was time, she thought, for Europe to play the peaceful card. The task of the intellectual, she said, remained as ever: to seek out the truth and preserve it and to aim at clarity in expression.

This programme started the new South Bank season and to mark the occasion, those brilliant credit titles by Pat Gavin, always worth watching even if one does not intend to view further, have been altered. They too, I thought, might well have been left alone.

The Law Machine, a 10-part series presented by Marcel Berlins, began on LWT yesterday, unfortunately at an hour when only the fasting or the household were likely to be watching. Produced by Julian Norridge, this half-hour programme should be a must for those who think that British justice is second to none is due for re-examination. Mr Berlins appears to be among this group. The title for his first programme was Justice for All?

Actors were used to represent two members of the public getting embroiled with the law - we shall follow them through - but the lawyers were real. Mr Berlins' commentary was packed with information, some of it alarming. He demonstrated, for instance, that the granting of legal aid rested much on the whims of justices' clerks, which led to great disparity.

Residents of Hampstead - who, one might have thought, had sufficient of life's good things - were more than eight times likely than residents of adjacent Highgate, for example, to get legal aid. Public expenditure cuts, said Mr Berlins, also affected the amount of legal aid granted, so that it might seem that justice depended on the state of the economy. A very timely programme this, explicit, pacy and making good use of every minute. The dramatizations did not get in the way, either.

On BBC1, Ralf Dahrendorf closed his five-part series Dabrendorf on Britain with a look at our future. It appears that the old adage "God helps those who help themselves" will be entirely appropriate.

We all, he said, had to adapt - "adjustment" was the word - to look to multi-industry communities where work would be built around individuals. The future of work could only be found in activity, he said; with people doing the things they liked doing and which had meaning for them. We were shown examples of these but I suspect they took some finding. I have liked Dr Dahrendorf's series on the whole, but it has left me my gloom.

John Percival

Dennis Hackett

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Opera Sleeping spirits

Romeo and Juliet

Coliseum

Something may be felt to be wrong in the opera house when one hears more of snorers among the audience than of singers from the stage.

One might suppose that Gounod's opera deserves no better, but in that case perhaps it deserves very much worse. Only occasionally does the Graham version become so crazy as to be funny; more such moments could have given the evening some zest, and distracted attention from Gounod's way of relapsing immediately into comfortable mediocrity after every arresting or touching passage, as if to reassure his audience that all is not so deadly serious, that after all this is only Gounod.

Of course the main motive for this production was the attraction of Valerie Maerouf to sing Juliet, and she returns as very much the star of the revival. She manages in every breath to sound virginal and vulnerable, but not at all sickly; her technique is too brilliant for that. Phrases glide through her voice as through fresh spring air, unshaken by any awkwardness in the wording, and her particular blend of delicacy and bravura is altogether a pleasure. Perhaps the tone and feeling are kept too much at the same level of pathos, but in truth Gounod's Juliet is not a character notable for development.

Her Romeo is John Treleven, who is not in the same good shape. Many of the smaller parts, though, are admirably done. William Shimell sings and acts Mercutio with dashing confidence and authority, the only other people to look as right as Juliet's grish attendants and Sally Burgess as Romeo's page, with a song that suits her fair manner and voice. Richard Van Allan is a calm and sensitive Friar Laurence, and the Nurse is now the cuddly Anne-Marie Owens. Other roles are distributed as before, so that Geoffrey Old Chard returns as a decisive Old Capulet, as does Louis Frenaux in the pit, making the most of what substance the orchestral score contains.

Paul Griffiths



Magnificent Teazle: Donald Sinden

Theatre Laughter against deliberation

The School for Scandal Haymarket

Forgetting the little matters of casting, direction and decor, it is a pleasure to see this comedy again in its ideal setting. If there is such a thing as the Haymarket play, this is it; with the exception of the Midsummer Night's Dream mechanicals, there are no surer comic scenes in the national repertory than those at Sheridan's scandalous academy or at the unmasking of Joseph Surface, and it would take a company assembled from the Strangers and the Sex Pistols to spoil them at this address.

The cast list for John Barton's production offers a lustrous roll-call of West End names, and Christopher Morley's designs supply a handsome compromise between Stratford severities and commercial display. You get the drift at the end of Dulcible Gray's prologue, when a dresser comes on to strip off her mob cap, leaving her briefly bald as a coot before going into cascading auburn locks as Lady Snorwell.

The sets are based on the eighteenth-century shutter system, but elaborated into sliding transparent panels that close in or open up like the aperture of a camera lens. There is not a stick of needless furniture, but the impression is unfailingly grand (most of all in the

ruins of Charles's bottle-strewn establishment). However, I have seen more enjoyable productions of the play. At present it is coming across as a piece of slow practice. All kinds of intelligent and comically promising details have been introduced to enlarge and articulate the dialogue, but they are apt to smother laughter with measured deliberation.

Also, with the exception of Donald Sinden's magnificent Sir Peter Teazle, the casting seems weighted in favour of the smaller parts. Michael Siberry's Charles, a genuinely raffish playboy with no promise of reform, is the best of them. But Christopher Godwin's Joseph lacks both villainy and subtlety; surface is precisely what this transparent hypocrite fails to convey.

You look equally in vain for charm in Judy Buxton's Lady Teazle, who emerges as a fledgling Fenella Fielding, looking around for approval when she gets in grown-up company, and vanishing as a character, once she admits the call of marital duty in the screen scene.

As a result, we see the comedy entirely from Sir Peter's viewpoint. Admittedly, it would take an actress of some firepower to challenge Sinden's uxorious miseries. He plays Sir Peter in a vein of long pent-up virility, torn in two by a sexual love and the marital cruelties that others discover at half his age.

Wonderful detail elaborates

these two ruling obsessions. Reminding Lady Teazle of her life before marriage he starts describing their first meeting, and a lecture on poverty turns into a love speech as his memory takes fire. Also, he executes tremendous emotional transitions during pauses.

At the sight of the eavesdropper in the screen his face changes to thunder and then works through to volcanic laughter. He takes his duties as a guardian very seriously, serving Petronilla Whitfield's Maria with a carefully measured half glass of wine. And, at the concluding nuptials, he expresses the hope that the new couples will be as happy as he and Lady T - allowing a gale of laughter to rock the house - before adding "hope to be".

Bill Fraser and Michael Denison are underemployed as Rowley and a friskily creaking Sir Oliver.

The other main treat of the evening comes in the scandal scenes, which develop into a superb duel between Sebastian Shaw's indefatigably palsied Crabtree and Beryl Reid's Mrs Candour, a tottering drunk with rosebud lips, phrasing her mock-benevolent lines with alcoholic emphases that bring out their full malice. She is last seen roasting the empty stage for scandalous evidence as if she has lost her favourite cat; and, at the mention of a duel wound, she is across the set like a bullet.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Salomon Quartet

Wigmore Hall

This quartet, which plays classical music on period instruments, is the most exciting and important ensemble to have appeared in this crowded field for some time. All the players are experienced in the hurly-burly of the London freelance scene; but now they have transferred the insights gained there, with infinitely more subtlety and thoughtfulness, to the deep peace of classical quartet masterpiece. If classical quartet survives in their smoothness survives in their performances that will surely disappear if they are given the support to deepen their understanding and take more risks in their playing.

In Friday's programme of Haydn, Mozart and Pleyel, Mozart's "Dissonance" Quartet stood out as a revelation: unquestionably great music transformed by the careful application of playing techniques which (and this is a crucial point) always respected the listener's ear.

Stephen Pettitt

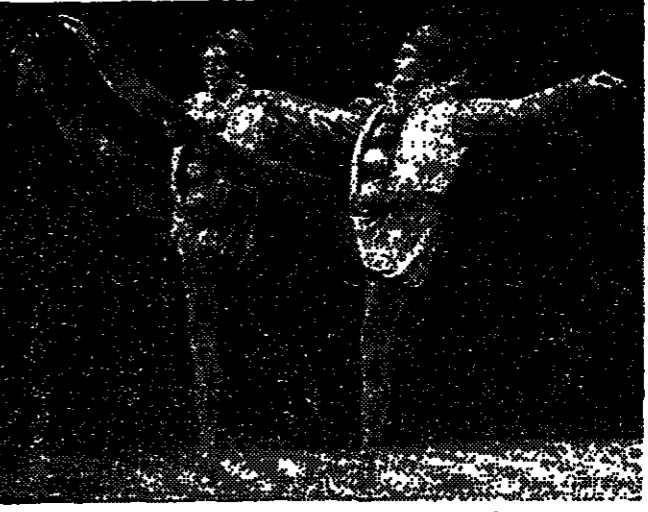
Nicholas Kenyon

PLG Young Artists

Purcell Room

Once more, it was the early piano recital on the final evening of this year's Park Lane Group Young Artists series which made the most impressive listening. The Yugoslav pianist Marina Milic, 20 years old, not only had the courage to tackle Rachmaninov and Scriabin but had the technique to do so with facility despite her tiny hands, and the insight to see the poetry through the clutter of virtuosity.

Scriabin's Fourth Sonata was alive with dazzling colours, yet with an epic sense of the mysterious, and in Rachmaninov's Op 23 Preludes there was all the power and agility one could have wished for, with fortissimos full of warmth and never hard or impersonal. Miss Milic evoked a marvellous sense of stillness in the opening of the fourth prelude, and after the terrifying torrents of Nos. 7, 8 and 9 she closed this remarkable cycle with a beautifully matter-of-fact cadence, to No 10.



Pea-pods: Iain Webb (left), Nicholas Ringham

Dance Vegetable salad

Pas de légumes

Sadler's Wells

Frederick Ashton's Pas de légumes began life as an episode in a film, Stories from a Flying Trunk, that appeared, and almost immediately vanished, in 1979. The movie was based, rather freely, on tales by Hans Andersen, and I cannot remember how it managed to bring in a plot of vegetables trying to save Covent Garden market from closure. I do recall animated sequences before the dancers appeared, and some trick effects which obviously cannot be reproduced on stage.

The most spectacular was a transformation of the leading man's costume whereby Graham Fletcher leapt into the air as plain Spud Murphy, whirled round and landed again as Prince Potato Crisp. The revival of the ballet at Sadler's Wells on Friday offered a change less flashy but no less impressive, when the illness of one colleague and the injury of another necessitated Grahame Lustig's learning that role at only a few hours' notice, dancing that night, then starting over again the next morning with a different partner for Saturday's matinee.

The stage version, first seen at a gala last year and now taken into the repertory of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, is simply a sequence of dances performed in amusing costumes by Rostislav Doboujinsky, to music by Rossini arranged by John Darby. There are some attractively comic entries for men: alla Turca for two tomatoes (Stephen Wicks and Derek Purnell), and a number full of music-hall swagger for two pea-pods (Iain Webb and Nicholas Ringham). Among the women, brocoli proves attractively pert, celery is tasty, but Karen Donovan's red cabbage really danced away with the richest flavour. Lustig danced so well that nobody would have guessed him to be a last-minute

substitute. I thought Nicola Katrak the more successful of his two partners; her feet are neater than Marion Tait's, her arms more languorous, her eyes sparkle more brightly. There is also a likable secondary duet, stately in high heels, for arichokes, nicely done by Michael O'Hare with Katrak or Gillian MacLaurin.

Altogether, this is a pleasant trifle, which audiences will enjoy; and it seems curious to mention that the Royal Ballet seems to be in danger of preserving all Ashton's little treasures but losing several of his greatest works. A similar comment could be made apropos the other revival of this programme, Massine's Le Boutique Janssuar, except that I have to add the Boutique needs a lot of burlesque before it is bright enough to justify its place in the programmes.

Alain Dubreuil's rubber-legged can-can dancer had a fair most of the other dancers lacked. Lustig and David Binley, as dandy and shoe-shine man, also showed spirit, and Leanne Benjamin's vivacity as the little American girl was all the funnier because her blonde wig made her a dead ringer for Makarova.

John Percival

Dennis Hackett

# Stock Exchange Prices Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Dec 31. Dealings End, Jan 14. 5 Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 24.  
\* Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.  
(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Stock	Price	Chg	Gr	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gr	Div	Yield	Capitalization	Company	Price	Chg	Gr	Div	Yield
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																			
1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m
<b>COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL</b>																			
<b>A-B</b>																			
29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m	29.9m
<b>FINANCIAL TRUSTS</b>																			
<b>INSURANCE</b>																			
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>																			
<b>OIL</b>																			
<b>PROPERTY</b>																			
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>																			
<b>COLLIER STOCKS</b>																			
<b>BANKS AND DISCOUNTS</b>																			
<b>JEWELLERS AND DISTILLERS</b>																			
<b>RUBBER</b>																			
<b>TEA</b>																			
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>																			
<b>SHIPPING</b>																			

هذا من اجل

هسك من الامن

March 8 or 15 thought likely date for Budget

# Tax cut hopes dampened by slide in sterling

By Michael Prest

Another early Budget is likely this year, and March 8 or 15 are the most popular dates being suggested in Whitehall.

But the continuing pressure on sterling, which could mean an acceleration in inflation and higher wage settlements in the second half of the year, is dampening already reduced hopes for significant tax cuts.

Forecasters by Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbrokers, suggest that the rate of retail price increases could fall to as low as 4 per cent during the first half of this year before averaging 6 per cent in the second half. It will then rise to an average 7.5 per cent next year.

Earnings are expected to grow by an average of 7.5 per cent this year and 7.8 per cent next year, rather than the 12.8 per cent in 1981 and 9.1 per cent last year.

Unemployment, restrictions on public sector pay settlements, and a decline in inflationary expectations will hold pay increases in check, the stockbrokers say.

But these and similar forecasts could easily be upset if sterling depreciates more quickly than anticipated. The Capel-Cure Myers figures are premised on the pound falling to 80 on the trade-weighted index by the end of this year and to 78 by the end of next year.

Last week, however, the pound slid from 84.3 to 82.5 and it was widely felt in the offshore exchange markets that the depreciation would not stop there. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is therefore faced with uncomfortable decisions about interest rates immediately ahead of a Budget.

Even if the pound's decline is arrested - perhaps by further cuts in American and German interest rates - and the risk of tax cuts overstimulating demand is lowered, the Government may still be deterred from tax cuts by the cost of financing unemployment and other benefits while the economy is depressed.

These extra costs could amount to £900m, and another £400m should be allowed for inflation. But if gross domestic



Sir Geoffrey: awkward decisions ahead.

could allow the PSBR to rise to £8,500 in 1983-4. At that level it would still be only 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product.

A PSBR of this size allows for tax cuts of 2 pence in the pound. The Institute of Directors will ask Sir Geoffrey on Thursday to lower tax thresholds. But the Treasury is believed to be resisting strongly various kinds of export incentives to leading British companies.

If that is the official mood, a generous Budget is felt to be unlikely.

## Wine traders seek sherry tax cut

The Wine and Spirit Association is to lobby the Chancellor for lower taxation on fortified wines such as sherry, vermouth and port because of falling sales, described as "persistent and serious".

The latest figures for the UK wine market for October show that volume sales of medium wines (those such as sheries and vermouths,

product grows as anticipated by 1.5 per cent in the coming financial year, the Government should gain automatically enough additional revenue to cover the expenditure.

Those hoping for or arguing that the Chancellor will help the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement will not suffer. Against a probable rise in the present financial year of £7,500m, the Government

Christmas lily. The picture was also brightened by the much better weather.

The worries for the sector are that the Chancellor will help industry rather than consumers in the Budget so as not to encourage imports. On the other hand, industry has no votes and the likelihood of a general election could change his mind.

Further, pressure on the pound this year could force interest rates up again. Although there are now signs that people are borrowing to buy, higher interest rates would certainly reverse that trend.

Stores which benefited from

Christmas include Harris Queensway and MFI (they have big January sales) and British Home Stores. Boots, with sales up by only 10 per cent, has done worse than most.

Most analysts are looking for nil inflation on retail prices which means the stores need better volume sales to cover cost increases of about four per cent, even after cutting their staff.

The government-controlled Development Bank of Singapore and the Overseas Chinese Bank are raising their prime rates to 9.25 from 9 per cent today. Both banks are also increasing deposit rates.

# Nimslo to make camera in France

By Our Financial Staff

Nimslo, which last week said it was ending production of its 3D Camera at the Timex plant in Dundee, announced yesterday that it had signed a contract with Fralson, a French company, to make the camera in France. The camera is also expected to be available in Europe several months earlier than previously indicated.

Workers in Dundee and the British Government, which provided Nimslo with financial assistance, may not be too pleased at the news, but shareholders in Nimslo, who saw the shares slump to 90p last Friday after a high of 275p in 1982, will take heart from the assurance that the company will be profitable in 1983.

Mr Graham Dawson, deputy chairman of Nimslo International, said yesterday: "Recent development will make 1983 a good and profitable year." This included agreements with two Japanese companies, Sunpak and Ricoh, to manufacture the camera.

Nimslo has sold 100,000 cameras in the United States, its only market, since the launch in March. They retail at about \$240 (£151) each. Sales are said to be rising, and Sunpak and Ricoh will have the capacity to produce one million cameras a year between them.

Nimslo claim that the Japanese companies can produce the camera to better standards and more cheaply. It therefore expects that the retail price will fall. Sunpak has already delivered cameras to the United States and Ricoh is tooling up for production to start in the summer.

Fralson is unlikely to begin production until next year. But the contract will bring Nimslo an initial payment of fr36m (£3.6m) and fr17.6m for 14 years. Fralson is owned by Mr Fred Olsen, the Norwegian businessman who is a major shareholder in Nimslo and is also owner of the Timex factory.

Japan will, initially at least, produce the camera for Europe - for Britain, France and Belgium. Whitehall officials declined to comment last night, but comparisons with the De Lorean debacle in Belfast, albeit on a smaller scale, are expected to be made. Nimslo says it withdrew from Dundee because of labour relations problems.

# News in brief

## The economy

President Reagan must decide this week whether to change economic course and embark on a programme of tax increases and other revenue producers in a bid to spark the long-awaited US recovery. Five of the president's closest advisers have said that the record US deficit of \$200,000m will continue to grow and interest rates rise if such action is not included in Mr Reagan's 1984 budget statement which must be finalized this week.

## International

Greece's Socialist government announced a 15.4 per cent devaluation yesterday of the drachma against all currencies. The announcement was given in an unscheduled briefing by Mr Dimitrios Maroudas chief government spokesman.

## Markets

Britain's retailers, having had a record Christmas, are now concerned that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor will help industry rather than consumers in his spring Budget in an effort to discourage imports. Pressure on the pound could also force up interest rates which would reverse the recent trend of higher consumer spending.

## Companies

The National Coal Board is to receive a new subsidy of £20m a year from the Government because a new Scottish power station is being run on cheap North Sea gas feedstock rather than coal. The Peterhead power station will use the gas liquids until 1985 and the coal board says it could lose sales of up to 2 million tonnes a year to the South of Scotland Generating Board.

## BOARD MEETINGS

**TODAY - Interims:** Brown and Tawse, Carlo Engineering, Ellis and Everard, Murray Northern Investment Trust, H Samuel, Finlay Claverhouse Investment Trust, Cosalt, Epley-Tyres, London Scottish Finance Corporation, Sotheby Parke Bernet.

**TOMORROW - Interims:** Centrovital Estates, Hogg Robinson Group, Stated and Simpson, Finlay Stalks.

**WEDNESDAY - Interims:** Danae Investment Trust, Hales Properties, Hollis Group, Laganvale Estates, Magaard and Southern, Moorgate Investment Trust.

**FRIDAY - Interims:** Peter Black, Guinness Part, Thorn EM, Finlay: Abbey Pensils Investment, Associated Newspapers (amended), Dewhurst and Partners, Warner Holidays, Legal General.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 621.0  
FT Gilts: 80.11  
FT All Share: 396.42  
Bargains: 24,042  
Tring Hall USM Index 150.0  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 8,169.29  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 798.86  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average 1076.07 (Friday's close)

## CURRENCIES

**LONDON**  
Sterling \$1.6105  
Index 82.5  
DM 3.7625  
FF 16.67  
Yen 368.75  
Dollar Index 116.9  
DM 2.3367  
Gold \$465.50

**NEW YORK**  
Sterling \$1.60  
Gold \$466.25 (Friday's close)

# Demerger study by UDS

By Our Financial Staff

Proposals for a demerger of its £50m to £70m worth of investment properties are being studied by UDS, the high street retailer, on the end of an unwelcome £191m takeover bid from a City consortium.

Last week, the consortium, headed by Mr Gerald Rossman's Heron Corporation and including a number of leading City institutions, launched its sur-

prise bid worth 100p a share - about half the group's estimated net asset value.

However, UDS, headed by Sir Robert Clark, its new chairman who is also chairman of the group's merchant bank advisers Hill Samuel, issued a swift rebuttal describing the offer as inadequate.

The demerger plan is expected to form a significant part in the UDS defence by encouraging shareholders to reject the consortium bid.

UDS is also preparing a revaluation of all its properties, with the help of surveyors Healey & Baker. At present the group's freehold and leasehold properties at £256m, but a revaluation is expected to help lift the group's net asset value - 168p a share in the last accounts - to about 200p a share.

Sir Robert Clark, new chairman

# Stores have record Christmas but worry about the Budget

By Jonathan Clare

Christmas 1982 was a record for retailers, at least in terms of inflated cash passing through the tills.

Retail analysts have been busy upping their forecasts for the stores sector this year, but they are still not wholly bullish.

A year ago, retailers went into the January sales oversold. This year they sold most of their stock before the sales started and they will begin the new financial year, which usually starts in February, with a lot of cash which will be reflected in year-end balance sheets.

The big beneficiaries have been the electrical retailers where the lifting of hire purchase restrictions glided the

Christmas lily. The picture was also brightened by the much better weather.

The worries for the sector are that the Chancellor will help industry rather than consumers in the Budget so as not to encourage imports. On the other hand, industry has no votes and the likelihood of a general election could change his mind.

Further, pressure on the pound this year could force interest rates up again. Although there are now signs that people are borrowing to buy, higher interest rates would certainly reverse that trend.

Stores which benefited from

Christmas include Harris Queensway and MFI (they have big January sales) and British Home Stores. Boots, with sales up by only 10 per cent, has done worse than most.

Most analysts are looking for nil inflation on retail prices which means the stores need better volume sales to cover cost increases of about four per cent, even after cutting their staff.

The government-controlled Development Bank of Singapore and the Overseas Chinese Bank are raising their prime rates to 9.25 from 9 per cent today. Both banks are also increasing deposit rates.

# Yarrow chief leads compensation battle

By Andrew Cornelius

Six British companies seeking higher compensation for assets nationalized by the last Labour Government will present their claims to the European Commission on Human Rights in Strasbourg later this month.

The companies, which include Vickers, GEC, Yarrow and Vospo, will argue that they received inadequate compensation for shipbuilding and aerospace assets nationalized in 1977.

Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman of the Yarrow engineering group, will head a delegation from the British companies. He will contend that the way in which the assets were taken over by the Government contravenes Article 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This provides that no one should be deprived of his assets

unless it is subject to the conditions provided for by international law.

The Human Rights Commission will ask the European Court of Human Rights to rule on the dispute between the Department of Industry and the companies if a settlement cannot be reached next week.

Sir Eric says his company was "robbed" by the Government. He is claiming compensation of about £20m. The company has already received £6m.

Vospo, another shipbuilding company to lose assets, wants £40m compensation against the £5.3m it has received.

The commission has set aside the week beginning January 24 to take oral evidence from representatives of the companies.

# Crackdown on Taiwan counterfeits

By Craig Seton

Taiwan has announced tougher penalties for trade mark infringements in what it claims is a demonstration of its determination to eliminate counterfeiting. The practice has harmed the country's image on international markets.

According to government officials in Taipei, the Prime Minister, Mr Sun Yun-sun, asked for the new laws to be passed without delay. A spokesman, who denied that Taiwan was willing to tolerate such "piracy", said: "We are sure that tougher penalties will discourage the illegal business that has smeared Taiwan's good reputation."

The new legislation includes an increase in the maximum prison sentence for those who counterfeit trade marks registered in Taiwan from two to five years. Those who counterfeit unregistered trade marks will face imprisonment of up to three years.

Foreign companies, particularly those in the West, have been sceptical of Taiwan's determination to stamp out counterfeiting, but the Government says that in the first nine months of last year 102 violators were brought to court. Recently, police are said to have raided three shops selling fake Rolex and Cartier watches after the two companies had complained.

Officials say that the Ministry of Justice is to sue six Taiwan manufacturers for allegedly counterfeiting the goods of Delsey, the French manufacturer of ABS attaché cases. However, 19 local producers of themselves against a suit filed by Textron, one of the leading companies producing the machines in the United States.

# cord total tankers capped

By Barrie Clement

With a deep recession in trade and plunging scrap tanker owners are making rate attempts to save their yards from breakers' yards. Owners are converting vessels to novel uses.

A record 2.5 million tons' worth of both tanker and shipboard carriers were scrapped last year.

A survey by the International Association of Tank-Owners (Intertanko) of 145 conversions representing ships 10.16 million deadweight tons showed that between 1973 and 1982 some 42 combination carriers were converted to bulk carriers, while 29 oil tankers of 390 million deadweight tons came storage, production or oil ships. A further 12 were converted to carriers of livestock.

Other tankers were rebuilt as oil and sludge carriers, tanker tugs and roll-off vessels. Intertanko cites the example of a midship section of a very large carrier being converted to drilling platform for Dome Petroleum's Ice Island in the Gulf of Mexico.

In a discussion paper entitled "Alternative Tanker Opportunities" published today, the association warns that conversion of vessels to bulk carriers is "only a stop-gap measure to avert a crisis in the shipping sector to other". It calls for greater ingenuity in the search for alternative uses.

Last year 13 conversions were reported, including six involving tankers over 100,000 tons deadweight. Three of them came storage barges, two were converted to heavy-lift ships, and another became a drill production vessel. This was in sharp contrast to 1981, when the emphasis was on conversion bulk and oil carriers.

# MF loan team eaves Riyadh

Riyadh (Reuters) - An International Monetary Fund delegation left Riyadh yesterday for talks with Saudi Arabian leaders on the possibility of a \$1 billion loan to help develop countries troubled by balance of payments deficits.

Monetary sources in Washington said the delegation was seeking a loan of between \$4,000m and \$5,000m.

The delegation was led by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, in his capacity as chairman of the IMF's interim committee.

# Institutions shy of road plans

By Our Financial Staff

The Government will find the big financial institutions far less amenable to pumping private cash into road-building schemes than it hoped in October when it set up a study.

Institutional investment managers who have considered the idea say they would demand a high level of guaranteed return as part of the price of supporting road development.

One fund manager said: "Our impression is we've discovered a need for a much larger guaranteed return than you might have expected a few months ago."

Funding road-building schemes carries a higher degree of risk than institutions would normally accept because of the

difficulty of forecasting traffic levels and inflation accurately over long periods.

Tolls are politically unacceptable and the financial backers would almost certainly be paid by royalties based on the number of vehicles using the road.

In any event, the cost to the Government of using private money would be greater than using public funds.

Charterhouse Japbet, the merchant bank commissioned by the Government to advise it on what terms the institutions might accept, has submitted an interim report, but so far avoided contacting the institutions direct.

Charterhouse has outlined to the Department of Transport two broad strategies which it thinks could be put to the institutions. They will be asked what they think over the next two months before the final report is made to the DoT.

The bank's first suggestion is a scheme where the construction companies would shoulder some of the financial risk together with the institutions.

The second would keep the financing separate from the building work.

The difficulty with the first scheme is that it would be difficult to separate the benefits the construction industry is getting from the actual work from those it gets from finance activities.

# President faces week of decisions on budget

# Call to dilute Reaganomics for recovery

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Faced with record general deficits which could delay the long-awaited US recovery, President Reagan must take the tough decision this week of whether to stay with his economic policies or to change course.

Five of Mr Reagan's closest advisers, alarmed by ballooning deficits estimated at \$200,000m (£124,804m) and above, are now urging the President to abandon key parts of his supply-side programme in favour of tax increases and other revenue producers.

Without such action and big new cuts in defence spending, the outlook is gloomy.

The US deficits will continue to grow, interest rates will rise again, and recovery will be stymied according to projections given to the President by Mr David Stockman, head of

the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr Reagan must act finally this week on his 1984 budget message to Congress in order to meet the printing deadline for submission of the documents by January 31.

But last week, in a nationally televised news conference and in a series of White House meetings with advisers, Mr Reagan indicated he had not been able to make up his mind on the key issues of tax increases and defence cuts.

Mr Reagan has scheduled another series of last-minute meetings this week at which he will be presented with a new proposal, favoured by the Treasury Secretary and others, for selected tax increases, sources said.

Earlier in his Press conference last week, Mr Reagan indicated he was wavering in



Reagan: time for decision

his normally hardline stance against such changes.

Indeed, five of Mr Reagan's closest advisers who were early supporters of his economic programme, have urged him to abandon key components of what has come to be known as

"Reaganomics" in order to spur a recovery.

These included the Secretaries of State and Treasury in addition to the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers and Senator Paul Laxalt. Mr Reagan's closest ally in Congress, who described the projected deficit as "a little terrifying".

At a news conference dominated by economic concerns, Mr Reagan promised that he would not allow the "Federal budget to become a roadblock on the path to long-term economic recovery."

But Mr Reagan did not indicate how he planned to cut the budget or spur the recovery, saying only that he would agree to look at the Pentagon's budget and cut it only if it could be cut without endangering US military standing.

# £20m 'subsidy' for coal board

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Government has agreed to pay up to £20m a year in subsidies to the National Coal Board to compensate for the fact that a new Scottish power station is being run on cheap North Sea gas feedstock.

The Peterhead power station, which was originally designed to burn oil, has been using natural gas liquids from the Brent area of the North Sea since it was completed in 1981. The gas liquids are eventually scheduled to be piped to Shell/Esso's controversial Mossmorran petrochemical plant in Fife, but until the plant is completed - in 1985 - they are being sent as an interim measure as fuel to the Peterhead station.

The coal board says that it stands to lose sales of up to 2 million tonnes a year to the

South of Scotland Generating Board - a quarter of its Scottish power station business. The reason is that without the cheap North Sea gas feedstock, the generating board would not find it economic to run the Peterhead plant on more expensive oil, and would therefore have to generate more electricity at its other Scottish coal-fired stations.

Although the subsidy has only come to light with the start-up of generation at Peterhead, the agreement to pay it dates back to February 1981 when the Government backed down in the face of threatened strike action by miners over the coal board's pit closure programme.

The subsidy was part of the subsequent tripartite settlement between the Government, the coal board and the National

Union of Mineworkers. It will be included in the board's overall deficit grant, expected to reach £526 in this financial year.

The subsidy works out at about £10 per tonne or a quarter of the average production costs of Scottish coal. It is calculated as the difference between the price the coal board would have got from the generating board, and the national price at which it can now theoretically export the coal.

Part of the Department of Energy's rationale for the subsidy is that the gas from Brent and its neighbouring North Sea fields would otherwise have to be wastefully "flared off". Critics will see it as a means of delaying pit closures in Scotland.

# Asian growth linked to US recovery

Singapore (AP Dow-Jones)

Asia will once more lead the world in economic growth in 1983, with Singapore leading the region, according to a new report. But much of that growth will depend upon a recovery in the United States and Europe.

The report, by the Chemical Bank, predicts that the total gross national product of all Asian countries will rise by 3.5 per cent this year, against 3 per cent in 1982 and 4 per cent in 1981.

The total rise in Asian gnp is \$82,000m, equally divided between the developed and developing countries.

The report puts Japan, Australia and New Zealand in the "developed" and all others in the "developing" category.

It says that most Asian countries should experience better growth in 1983 than 1982, with Australia and Papua New Guinea the only ones likely to have a real decline in their gnp figures.

The forecast is partly based on the assumption that the US economic recovery will begin in the first half of the year. This is important because 22 per cent of the US, says the report, is also assumed to be in recession during most of all of 1983.

Should that occur, non-oil commodity prices could remain near present low levels, instead of experiencing a "very moderate pickup". Oil prices, the forecast says, are "likely to be steady or down slightly". That

# Car sales ride on easier HP

By Our Financial Staff

A boom in car sales following last July's lifting of hire purchase restrictions led to a 4.7 per cent rise in new car registrations in 1982. However, imports have continued to take a growing share of the United Kingdom market, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

The relaxation of credit controls last summer, aimed at boosting the severely depressed motor industry, came when car sales were running 2.1 per cent below the previous year.

After the Government's measures new car sale topped 300,000 in a month for the first time in August and showed big increases for the rest of the year. However, total sales of 1.56m in 1982 were still well below the record of 1.72m in 1979 and below levels reached in 1972, 1973 and 1978.

The stimulus to demand also fed through to higher imports. Including imports from Ford, Talbot and Vauxhall, car imports in 1982 rose to 57.5 per cent of all sales compared with 55.7 per cent the previous year.

Last year's best-selling car was the Ford Escort which sold 166,942 followed by Ford Cortina with 135,745 sales. BL's Austin Metro took third place with sales of 114,550. Four of 1982's top ten best-sellers were Ford cars.

The SMMT figures show a drop in BL's market share of new car registrations in 1982 from 19.2 per cent to 17.8 per cent.

World Bank struggles within \$60,000m lending constraint

How poor nations 'pole vault' into debt

The World Bank is the world's biggest aid agency. But the bank and its soft loan arm, the International Development Association, are having difficulty raising funds to help the poorest countries through the recession.

Q: I'd like to start with your perspective of just how bad conditions in the poorest countries are at the moment? This obviously is very important as you are beginning your new negotiations on the 7th tranche of development fund for less developed countries.

A: Yes, Well, I have likened it on a comparative basis to a pole vault. The poorest countries have got the hundred yards they need to run to make the vault. But the poorest of the poor countries, instead of having a 100 yds, have got just three yards to run, to make the vault or perhaps, 18 ft. And it is almost impossible.

Q: May I follow that fear factor, and ask you if you don't think that some of these banks need to bear more responsibility for what has happened?

A: I can't give you any evidence. I can merely point to the literature that is being written on this subject.

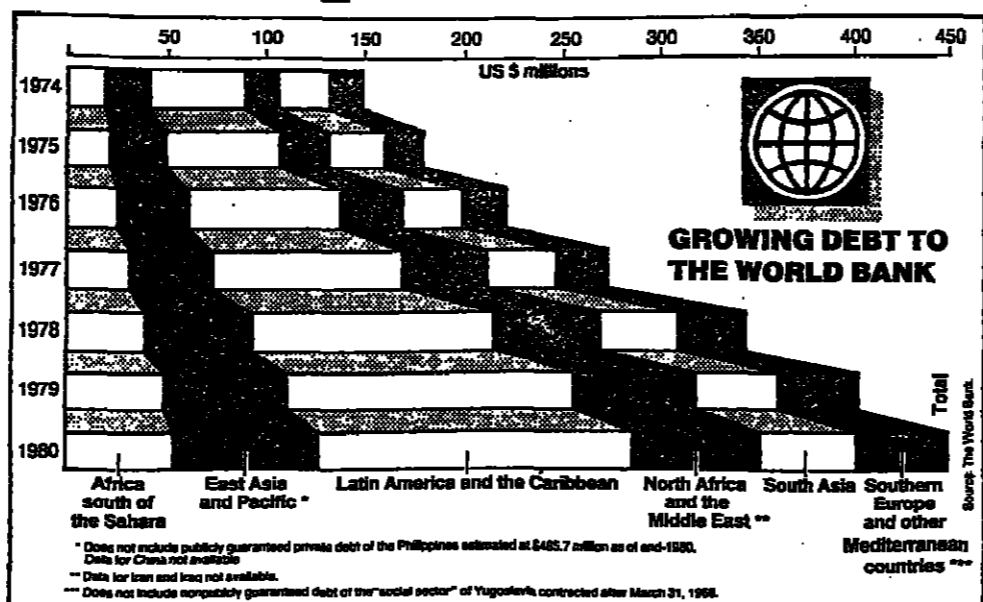
Q: But aren't some of these countries caught in a vicious circle? I mean, they've got this external debt problem and yet you want to exert some controls. Are they able to pull back at this point? Or are they just staying afloat - just barely hanging together?

A: I would say that very clearly what all countries need to do in this environment is to adjust. I underline this for all. Adjustment takes a lot of forms. There are some countries that are borrowing heavily on the outside and are subsidizing consumption on the inside.

Q: Can you give an example? A: Countries which are permitting the consumption of energy, be it electricity or gasoline, at prices that are only a fraction of the international market price. Countries in which food consumption is being subsidized way under costs.

Q: Do you worry that some of these countries who have criticized what they describe as very heavy-handed IMF involvement in their internal policies, might also begin to regard the World Bank in a similar way?

A: We must be sensibly sensitive and sensitively sensible. Q: Which means? A: Well, it means different things to different countries,



They do in fact cut off funds to needy countries? A: I can't give you any evidence. I can merely point to the literature that is being written on this subject.

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A: A great deal more money is needed. China is a new interest in IDA. And so, in real terms, just to maintain the status quo and do nothing, we are talking about \$12 billion. Q: I was interested in a point you made recently that what the world now needs, given the malaise economically, is controlled expansion, and I wondered how you think that can be accomplished? A: Not easily. But I would ask the other side. Why can't it be done? Q: Do you sense a willingness among nations, particularly the United States, to reduce their military budget? President Reagan said just the other day he is firmly committed to this build-up. A: I'm a United States citizen you know. I think there is consensus in the United States that we should spend more for major countries are losing their will to understand the needs of the Third World countries. I point to IDA 6 and the transition year, and what I think is a very dramatic example of great understanding by 22 to 25 countries which came forward in fiscal year 1984 and said we will come up with an additional two billion dollars for IDA, that can be used for the poorest of the poor countries in the world while we wait for the United States to catch up and pay its commitment.

Q: And much emphasis has been placed by you and others on the level of their participation as a signal to the rest of the world. What happens if the United States decides to greatly curtail its quota? A: Well, I think that the support of the institution will be severely hurt because I think the United States, in its role of leadership, is absolutely essential and its support for our institutions is essential for its on-going strength.

Q: But what happens if the United States dramatically cuts its quota? Would the other developed countries also cut theirs? A: Yes, if the United States were to drop its percentage of participation who is there to pick it up?

Q: In the strongest nation in the world will not pick up, I am very fearful. I would doubt that there are countries that are willing to pick it up.

Q: In other words, a great deal more money is needed.

Wall Street letter

Markets convinced the worst is over

The continuing boom in stocks reflects a growing belief in the financial markets that the economic recovery in 1983 will be 'vastly more robust than the 'consensus' of economists and the gloomy official forecast of a 1.4 per cent rise in 1983 real gross national product would have us believe.

The stock markets are saying loud and clear that there is not going to be a recession any more this year. They are also saying corporate profits are going to rise sharply.

The stock market boom has changed character in recent weeks. Until before Christmas, the stock market boom had been principally a 'multiples boom' - the result of a wholesale revaluation of all financial assets, related in turn to the collapse of interest rates that got under way in earnest in July.

Short-term rates stopped falling in August and medium and long-term rates stopped falling in October.

Once that happened, the question arose: 'What will happen to stocks? Will they, like bonds, level out in price and stay where they were about October?'

For some weeks, during November and December, it seemed as if this might indeed be the answer. The stock markets largely spent their time churning around 1,000 on the Dow Jones average closing to two months of 1982.

But now a new force appears to have taken over. That is the belief that there is going to be a very vigorous recovery in 1983 and that profits will rise very sharply as a result. Cyclical stocks like cars and steels are now showing in many cases huge gains in price.

The boisterous optimism of the stock markets is also spreading to the commodities markets. Last Friday, the Commodity Research Bureau index of future prices reached 237.8, its highest level since early September and way up on the low of 226 reached in early October.

Pointing to the belief in a

vigorous recovery of industrial production, the CRB index of future metal prices has jumped from 180 in June 1982, a rise of 67 per cent in 20 months.

March 1983 copper has risen from 60 cents in early October to 73.4 cents last Friday. Lumber has responded vigorously to the boom in new housing starts.

The buoyancy of gold, silver and platinum needs to be emphasized. Since mid-year big fortunes have been made through the purchase of shares in the mining companies.

During the first quarter of 1983, US car makers announced last week they intended to build 55 per cent more vehicles than in the first quarter of 1982.

New housing starts in November increased 2.5 per cent to an annual rate of 1.6 million, up 66 per cent from the recession low in November 1981 and the highest level of new starts in 22 months.

Meanwhile, there is no evidence of a significant slackening in the pace of money growth.

The prestigious money analyst, Professor David Weiselman, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, said last week: 'The Fed abandoned money supply targets, instead, the Fed has gone back to interest rates targeting as a major emphasis on its federal funds rate. The Fed is artificially, and temporarily, pushing down the funds rate by increasing money and by supplying additional reserves to the banking system. It is clear that the Fed has been actively pursuing a policy of forcing down the funds rate and with it the discount rates well. If the money supply expands rapidly, then so will it.'

Accordingly, to the idea of a 'slow, grudging' economic recovery is entirely unrealistic.

The rest of the world will be dragged into the upturn generated by the developing boom in US economic growth. The collapsing US dollar will ensure that the domestic US economy gets the first bite of this bright red cherry.

Maxwell Newton

Table with columns: Stock, Div, Yield, Price, Flat, GRV. Lists various stocks and their financial metrics.

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Table with columns: Stock, Div, Yield, Price, Flat, GRV. Lists various stocks and their financial metrics.

Table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield, P/E, Dividend Yield, P/B. Lists various companies and their market data.

USM shares advertisement. Text: 'The Unlisted Securities Market is the most exciting growth area in UK equity investment. In 1982 it has shown very substantial profits to those investors who were well informed. We are the only investment newsletter specialising in the USM - our performance record speaks for itself.' Includes USM Investor logo and contact information.

The week ahead

Magnet to reflect housing upturn

Further evidence of an upturn in housebuilding is expected later this week when Magnet & Southern, the timber and joinery group, unveils interim figures. At present, the market is looking for just over £13m compared with £10.6m last time. Improved volume and healthier margins will account for most of the increase and the group will have enjoyed a period of firmer timber prices.

Index up 4.5 despite the quiet

The Tring Hall index managed a 4.5 increase on the week, despite the quiet mood in the City.

The biggest fall of the week was Nississ International, which plunged 30p late on Friday to 90p when the company announced that it was ending production of its camera at the Times Dundee plant.

In contrast, Immediate Business Systems performed well, up 23p on the week to 268p.

Consistants (Computer & Financials) and Rolfe & Nolan, both computer companies, continue to be out of favour, but NMW Computers, which came over from the 163 market before Christmas, spurred 20p ahead to 173p.

Another stock which found favour last week was A & G Security, the alarm company. Its shares had been performing very strongly but dropped back for no obvious reason recently. Last week they recovered 35p to 300p.

Most oils languished, with the curious exception of Hudson Petroleum, which rose 14p to 52p. Garfunkel's Restaurants, launched at 55p last November, has been up and down but last week finished 15p up at 116p. Canvermore also did nicely with a 16p rise to 131p.

LASER-SCAN INTERNATIONAL INC. advertisement. Text: 'For a current price, ring 01-377 1333. For a free copy of our latest Newsletter, write to: CHARTERED SECURITIES 22 Colindale Avenue, EC22A 3BB, London NW9 1DA. Licensed Dealers.'

Unlisted Securities Market review

Air Call looks for new frequency

Shareholders in Air Call, who saw their shares plunged 100p to 280p, where they have now stabilized, must be wondering what the future holds for their company.

Unlisted Securities Market

Shareholders in the group, which supplies components for Sea King helicopters and Rapier missiles, can also expect a healthy increase in the final dividend from 4.3p to 7.3p gross.

And the investment implications of all this? Air Call will be reporting its results in March.

The interims, with pretax profits at £353,000 against £437,000 were not exciting, but Mr Stanley hopes to improve on 1981's £263,000 pretax.

Asprey, the top people's shop, reported credible pretax profits last Friday for the year ending September 30 up 27 per cent to 2.81m, with fractionally improved margins. Mr John Asprey, chairman, said Christmas sales had been slightly better than they were the year before.

And the investment implications of all this? Air Call will be reporting its results in March.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Div, Yield, P/E, Dividend Yield, P/B. Lists various unlisted securities and their market data.

APPOINTMENTS

Willis Faber name new directors

Mr A. A. Gregory has become deputy chairman of Willis Faber & Dumas (UK). Mr R. B. Kerlake becomes deputy chairman of Willis Faber (Underwriting Management).

The following have been appointed executive directors of Willis Faber & Dumas (UK): Mr J. C. Gale, Mr A. Gladwin, Mr J. F. Hughes, Mr B. R. D. Liddell, Mr C. M. London, Mr E. I. J. Moss, Mr A. J. F. Pace, Mr A. Z. Szadkowski, Mr A. D. Trotman.

Mr P. R. Stevens has been appointed an executive director of Willis Faber & Dumas (UK). Mr D. Bernard has been appointed an executive director of Willis & Faber (Finance and Administration).

Mr Simon Field Westmacott becomes an assistant director of the Standard Chartered Merchant Bank.

Mr Anthony B. Greayer has joined Hoare Govett as a principal and head of the international department.

Mr Andrew Reid has been appointed commercial director of Brown & Jackson.

Mr Ken Hough, managing director of Ellis & Everard's fine chemicals division has been appointed chairman of the company's export division. Mr Peter Wood, Ellis & Everard's main board finance director, also joins the export division's board.

Mr M. J. Fuller, general manager for the Midlands and South West division of Midland Bank, has taken charge of the business development division in place of Mr P. J. Nicholson, a general manager, who is to assume responsibility for the London and South East division on the retirement of Mr A. J. Knights. Mr G. A. Gaspary, a general manager, takes responsibility for the Midlands and South West division.

Mr Andrew Reid has been appointed commercial director of Brown & Jackson.

Mr D. R. Pippard has been appointed joint deputy managing director of Butler Tilly, the money broker. Mr T. E. Ford becomes a director. Mr C. G. Taylor an assistant director and Mr C. J. Reeve an assistant manager.



English gamble follows loss of Woodward

By David Hands... weekend of sunshine and Bisham Abbey, where... the shadow England squad also had an exhausting time yesterday...

Woodward's withdrawal was a possibility. He has played a handful of games for his club... absence breaks up the idyllic triangle of himself, Dodge and country combination...

Davis, England's coach, was happy with the performance of the England team... he will be able to work out the team alignment, so different...

Achilles strikes

By Iain Mackenzie... Irvine, deposed as first choice... the swelling goes down... he will be able to work out the team alignment...

Attling Scots cry out vive la different!

By Iain Mackenzie... looking angry. Their differential is slightly better than Hawick's... the game was a home fixture against...

Scots frighten Llanelli

Leicester's teamwork proved to much for a Gloucester side... the holders with Gloucester of the John Player Cup... the game was a home fixture against...

THE FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP



Coventry's wall stands firm: Lander kicks with Sadler and his colleagues holding off the Bristol forwards

The Bristolians steam-roller that rumbles and falls flat

By David Hands... Thomas, prevented by injury from playing... the Bristolians steam-roller that rumbles and falls flat... Coventry's captain, Steve...

Escape act maintains Bath record

By Nicholas Keith... A rousing revival brought Bath 10 points in the last 10 minutes... the game was a home fixture against...

Pontypool thrive on old style

By Gerald Davis... Pontypool are not the side they once were... the game was a home fixture against...

Lancashire unstuck in the mud

By Michael Stevenson... When Yorkshire narrowly defeated Lancashire in the senior county championship... the game was a home fixture against...

Ovett marks time but Buckner finds plenty to spare

As one British miler revealed his latest injury setback at the weekend... Steve Ovett is the injury victim with tendon trouble which, contrary to speculation, is not threatening his career...

Buckner ran the second fastest indoor 1,500 metres by a Briton when he won in 3min 41.7sec... Ovett had hoped for his first full winter's training in two years...

Steele runs out of wins

One of the most remarkable unbroken sequences of success in a country running came to an end on Saturday when the former Great Britain 1,500 metres junior international, Kevin Steele, finished 10th in the Kent championship at Maidstone... Steele, aged 28, had won all his county cross-country races - 12 in Norfolk and two in Kent - and was expected to be a top contender...

Irish champions prevent MIM's notable treble

By Sidney Friskin... The nervously-disposed would have been ill-advised to which Glenfield indoor tournament which ended in Glasgow yesterday... MIM went into the interval leading 5-2 and after fortunes had changed in the second half, David 'brought Slough back into the match with a great goal to reduce the lead to 6-5...

West end barren spell

The West have had the bogey. They won their first match for two years yesterday, beating South Wales 3-0 with two goals from their captain Susan Williams... South Wales had beaten South (England's champion territory) 1-0 at Cwmbran on Saturday but on the grass at Cheltenham...

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing various sports records, including American Football, National League, and other sports events.

ATHLETICS

European Championship's qualifying time which her sister Teena Colebrook also made in second place... Billy the Kid was reputedly small and lean, Billy Cole, aged 17, who throws shots instead of lead, will undoubtedly be tagged with this nickname...

SQUASH RACKETS

Playing squash in Pakistan is sometimes associated with problems of an undignified kind, but Gwynn Briars, the British champion, and Phil Kenyon, his partner, have not only progressed satisfactorily to the last of the Pakistan Open sponsored by Hamard, they have made even more satisfactory progress in adapting the surroundings...

CHAMPIONS making progress

Playing squash in Pakistan is sometimes associated with problems of an undignified kind, but Gwynn Briars, the British champion, and Phil Kenyon, his partner, have not only progressed satisfactorily to the last of the Pakistan Open sponsored by Hamard, they have made even more satisfactory progress in adapting the surroundings...

NETBALL

ALL ENGLAND ASSOCIATION: Northamptonshire 24, Lancashire 22, South Yorkshire 20, Northamptonshire 22, South Yorkshire 20, Northamptonshire 22, South Yorkshire 20...

TABLE TENNIS

SEVILLE: European League second division: Spain 5, Scotland 2, Goals names: Spain 5, Scotland 2, Goals names: Spain 5, Scotland 2...



RACING: CHELTENHAM CONTENDERS SHOW THEIR CALIBRE IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND

Claude Monet in the winning frame

By Michael Phillips Racing Correspondent

We have grown accustomed to the Winters, Francomes, Nicholsons and Scudamores of this sport...

They earned up to win three of the six races there with Henry Kissinger, Claude Monet and Hawkshaw...

Injured ribs had kept Barton on the sidelines for three weeks: Kirkstone Pass, the winner that he rode for Gandolfo on Friday...

Henry Kissinger set the ball rolling when he won the Express Steeplechase by a wide margin...

Had he not run an abominably at Kempton just after Christmas, Henry Kissinger would have started at odds on to win this much more humble pie...

Claude Monet kept up the good work for Barton and the wizard of Wantage...

On returning home Moore heard that there was a nice horse for sale on the farm adjoining that of his parents in Cork...

Claude Monet began promisingly by winning his first race in England at Stratford...

Having looked all over the inside half-way up the straight, the prize was snatched away from him on the final of the Paul Leach on Komatch...



Lesley Ann headed by Richdee and Fifty Dollars More at the penultimate fence.

likewise for another by running in a Philip Cornes race at Ascot on Saturday.

Hawkberry, in upsetting those of us who had banked on Young Lover winning the Tolworth...

On usurping and on Young Lover Francome crossed to the side of the course nearest the stands...

Having looked all over the inside half-way up the straight, the prize was snatched away from him on the final of the Paul Leach on Komatch...

As for the winner, he rode to a relatively unimpressive but a

Triumph Hurdle. Komatch is no forlorn hope to give his trainer, Martin Pipe, his second success in three years at Cheltenham...

Jack O'Leary's win in the Race Video Novices Steeplechase was almost as exciting and as much a tribute to the skill of his trainer, Peter Cazalet...

Things were humming at Haydock Park when John O'Neill rode a peach of a race to land a gamble on Cool Decision...

Lesley Ann's rider, Colin Brown, was a relatively unimpressive but a

mightily effective operator, was presented with the bronze statuette that is covered by the victor in this race.

Things were humming at Haydock Park when John O'Neill rode a peach of a race to land a gamble on Cool Decision...

Lesley Ann's rider, Colin Brown, was a relatively unimpressive but a

As for the winner, he rode to a relatively unimpressive but a

RUGBY LEAGUE

The weaker brethren find life is still hard

By Keith Macklin

The draw for the first round of the Challenge Cup, sponsored by State Express, has been crucially hard on the second division clubs...

The outstanding game is Widnes against Leeds, two great cup-fighting sides who featured in a dramatic semi-final last season...

There were some remarkable and dramatic finishes in yesterday's championship matches with several games being decided in the closing seconds...

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GOLF

Dexter achieves an unlikely ambition to win the Putter

By John Hennessy, Golf Correspondent

Ted Dexter won the President's Putter for the first time at Rye yesterday after three previous failures to surmount the final hurdle...

Dexter has prospered in the cockpit of Test cricket so often that the Putter might have been regarded as small beer...

Stracey, 18 years the junior, was unmoved by his opponent's glowing public persona and was a match for him off the tee...

From then on, the match belonged emphatically to Dexter, who has abandoned his erstwhile putting grip...

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Winning style: Dexter heads for the 16th green during a battle of the boys with Stracey.

the ball up dead from well off the green. Dexter achieved his third birdie at the 12th, ignoring the wind and floating a pitch shot 10ft from the hole.

Dexter was now two under fours and level par for the round. Another par four should have ended the match at four and three...

A two at the seventh sprang from a hammer thrust from eight yards. Each Crenshaw would have been proud, and a 10-footer went sweetly home to give Dexter the lead for the second time at the ninth...

On Friday, Hoch equalled the course record with a seven-under par 63 to lead at the halfway stage.

In the semi-final, Dexter had been only one over four against Stracey. Stracey recovered from two down at the 10th against Grant to win the next five holes.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS: fourth round: A. Ashcroft 68, 69, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS: fourth round: A. Ashcroft 68, 69, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 5



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**Commercial property by Baron Phillips**

**Within the City limits**

Despite the generally depressed nature of Birmingham's Edgbaston office market Commercial Union Properties' block at 54 Hagley Road is continuing to let steadily. A further 3,500 sq ft of space has been let to Canada Life Assurance at an initial rent of 26 p a sq ft. Only 18,000 sq ft in the 157,000 sq ft building is still vacant. Edwards Bigwood & Bewlay and Jones Lang Wootton are joint letting agents.

Undershaft building is true and it finds a single tenant to lease the entire block then the market will receive a boost.

Some brokers are pitching potential bids at about the 245p a share level valuing the company at about £90m although the opening salvo, if it is forthcoming, will probably be closer to 210p-215p.

One company which is being quietly tipped as a possible bidder is Sir Lawrence Barratt whose Barratt Developments is extremely keen to build up its property development side and retain for investment. Certainly Barratt has a number of obvious attractions for Barratt Developments especially as much of the portfolio, both investment and development, is in the south, a preferred area of expansion for Sir Lawrence.

UK funds are expected to increase their buying activities in the North American property market according to Jones Lang Wootton's New York partner Mr Simon Milde. He says that opportunities for investment have probably never been better as most local sources of finance are out of the market and there is a healthy supply of properties on the market.

During the past six months yields for prime offices have eased quite considerably to between 9% and 12% per cent from 7 and 9% per cent while internal rates of return expected by purchasers have risen by three or four points to a between 17 and 20 per cent.

Mr Milde commented: "Already there is visible evidence of the office market recovering in most major cities. There is now a steady take up of excess space and this is likely to be increased both by the growth of white collar employment and the economic 'tuning'."

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